the

GLOXINIAN

The Journal for Gesneriad Growers

Vol. 49, No. 1 First Quarter 1999

Alsobia dianthiflora

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

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Gesneriad Hybridizers Association — *CrossWords,* 3 issues, $8. Send to Judy Becker, 432 Undermountain Rd., Salisbury, CT 06068

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Gesneriad Correspondence Club — U.S. $6.75; Canada $8.75; Foreign $14.00; Braille Newsletter $5.00 per year. Write to Lois & Ron Kruger, 207 Wycoff Way West, East Brunswick, NJ 08816-5644.
Gesneriad Research Foundation — 1873 Oak St., Sarasota, FL 34236-7114. Individual, $25; Family, $35; Club, $100. Visit our greenhouse and rainforest when in the area. Telephone (941) 365-2378. <hwiehler@aol.com>
Gesneriphiles Internet Discussion Group — To join, send the following message: subscribe gesneriphiles <your name> to: listproc@lists.colorado.edu from the email address you wish to receive the postings.

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COVER
Teddy Bear of
Alsobia dianthiflora
at the Chicago Botanic Garden

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Color photo on page 53 sponsored by The Tennessee Chapter in memory of Vaunez Brakebill's mother, Dessie Smith, and by the Long Island Chapter in lieu of speakers' fees to Maryjane Evans and Jeanne Katzenstein.

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President's Message

Jon Dixon <jond@hooked.net>
55 Tum Suden Way, Woodside, CA 94062

Once again we are mid-year between conventions. A year ago I wrote about expectations for Chicago. We were not disappointed. I wrote about how, in the past, I personally would bring home as many as 49 new plants from an AGGS convention. Well, last summer I brought home over 90, fitting over 80 little plants in my two carry-on bags for the flight home. Now, as I write this, I am surrounded with the flowering bounty of my efforts. New kohlerias, both hybrids and species, are blooming on the window above the kitchen sink. When my friends who grow plants but not gesneriads visit and see these kohlerias for the first time, they are amazed that such incredible beauty had heretofore eluded them. In the fall I enjoyed a bounty of new achimenes, plus I added a new dimension to my collection with seven recently introduced species saintpaulias. In the greenhouse a new *Sinningia leopoldii* has surprised me with a cloud of over twenty red-orange tubular flowers on a very tidy compact plant. Surely this recently introduced species will have an impact on future sinningia breeding. So now while the rest of my sinningias are just beginning to wake up, I look forward to another growing and blooming season.

For those of you reading this who attend the conventions, you know the excitement of the opening of the plant sale, as well as all of the other exciting aspects of the nearly week long schedule of events. Reading the Convention Program and the Show Schedule gives only a hint of what the activities are all about. The convention is so much more. This year AGGS will be returning to Nashville, the first time for myself. We will have the usual schedule of lectures, workshops, meals, banquet, auctions, the plant sale, and field trips; but in addition, our hosts promise a wide assortment of music, befitting the theme of Nashville as America's music capitol. After last year's orgy of plant acquisition I can only wonder what I will come home with this year. Like last year, the local committee will be putting together a stellar plant offering. In addition, several new commercial providers will also be present, introducing some fantastic new hybrids and species. Changes made by the board at the meetings in Chicago have assured us that this year and in the future the convention plant sale will be bigger than what we have seen in years past.

For those of you who have never attended an AGGS Convention, why not start planning now to attend in Nashville? Read the schedule of events, but remember that so much more occurs than what is described: the informal meetings and discussions; the get-togethers; informal slide shows; sharing of cuttings, rhizomes, and tubers; the chance to meet the hybridizers, the botanists, the writers, and growers that make AGGS and the gesneriad world one of the most exciting of all plant societies. But the biggest impact of the convention occurs after we all get home. Along with the new plants, new knowledge, and memories is the euphoria and the excitement for our plants that lasts the whole year long.

Our customers say it best...

June 18, 1998

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I use Dyna-Gro on all of my gesneriads and violets, as well as other plants. In fact, I use rain water and I mix up about 30 gallons at a time.

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Coming Events

February 12-14 — Florida — Upper Pinellas African Violet Society 40th annual show and sale, Clearwater Mall, 20505 U.S. Hwy 19 North, Clearwater. Open mall hours. African violets and other gesneriads for sale. Bring a violet and we'll repot it for you! Contact Anita Marshall (727-799-7053) <atmarshall@prodigy.net>.

February 26-28 — Florida — Tampa African Violet Society 24th annual judged show and sale "A Whale of a Tale", Westshore Plaza, 250 Westshore Plaza, Tampa (intersection of Westshore and Kennedy Blvds). Friday 12:00 noon to 9:00 pm; Saturday 10:00 am to 9:00 pm; Sunday 12:00 noon to 6:00 pm. Contact John Menish (813-681-1910).

March 27-28 — Illinois — Northern Illinois Gesneriad Society show and sale, Chicago Botanic Garden, Main Exhibit Hall, Lake-Cook Road & Edens Expressway, Glencoe. Saturday 12:00 noon to 4:00 pm; Sunday 10:00 am to 4:00 pm. Admission free; parking $6 per car, free to Garden members. Contact Nancy Maybloom (847-882-4652) <hsmay@aol.com>.

April 8-10 — Texas — The African Violet Society of America 1999 national plant show "Lone Star Violet-Up", Adam's Mark, 2900 Briar Park Drive, West Houston (one block east of Beltway 8 west and one-half block south of Westheimer Road). Commercial sales Thursday 9:00 am to 6:00 pm. Sales on Friday and Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Show open Saturday 9:00 am to 5:00 pm. Contact Meridith Hall (713-869-0102) or Connie Leifeste (254-741-0784) <yaz00@msn.com>.

Seed Fund

Maryjane Evans <pollin8r@aol.com>
194 Morris Turnpike, Randolph, NJ 07869

In January 1998 I prefaced the seed list with the comment that it was the longest seed list our Society had ever published. I need to amend that statement — **this** is the longest list we have ever published. Once again, this is due to the efforts of a very small group of dedicated growers.

We extend thanks to Clay Anderson, Carol Ann Bonner, Mary Bozoian, Tsuh Yang Chen, Ray Coyle, Peggy DePhillippo, David Harley, Ingrid Lindskog, Toshijiro Okuto, Pat Olson, Bob and Dee Stewart, MJ & Dave Tyler, Betty and Jerry Vriens, Forrest Wesson and the Smithsonian Institution for their generous contributions.

Special thanks go to Marlene Beam, Christian Feuillet, Laura Johnson, and Peter Shalit for making multiple contributions.

PLEASE NOTE:

1) *Lysionotus ikedae* is now *Lysionotus pauciflorus* var. *ikedae*
2) *Lysionotus pauciflorus, montanus,* and *warleyensis* are now *Lysionotus pauciflorus* var. *pauciflorus*
3) *Achimenes misera* USBRG88-039 is now *Achimenes warszewicsziana* USBRG88-039
4) The accession number for *Streptocarpus kentaniensis* is MBG2335-60
5) Some botanists treat *Pearcea* and *Parakohleria* as one genus (*Pearcea*) and some botanists treat them as separate genera. The Seed Fund list reflects both points of view.
6) Seed listed as 'hybrid name' × self will not come true from seed and should always be labeled as 'hybrid name' × self.

Seed Packets — $1.50 each

Please

- Make checks payable to the AGGS Seed Fund in U.S. funds
- To pay by credit card, send your credit card number, expiration date, and signature, and indicate if the card is Mastercard or Visa ($6.00 minimum)
- Remember to enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope
- List alternate choices
- Include your membership number (first number on your mailing label)

Achimenes (D)
admirabilis (B)
cettoana (B)
dulcis (B)
erecta (B)
erecta 'Tiny Red' (F, L)
grandiflora 'Robert Dressler' (B)
longiflora (B)
longiflora alba (B)
skinneri W1897 (L)
warczewicziana USBRG88-039 (B)
'Carmencita' (L)
hybrid mix (B, L)

Aeschynanthus (B)
albidus
angustifolius
boschianus
• *buxifolius* 913296
chrysanthus
cordifolius
evrardii
fecundus

garrettii
gracilis
hartleyi
hildebrandii USBRG94-214
hildebrandii USBRG94-254
hosseusii
lanceolatus
longicaulis
longiflorus
micranthus
mimetes
obconicus
parasiticus
parvifolius
parvifolius 'Bali Beauty'
pulcher
radicans
tricolor
• sp. (Vietnam) 921622
sp. MSBG87-162

Alloplectus
bolivianus USBRG95-140 (M)
cristatus
dodsonii (yellow) GRF98184 (MT)
panamensis GRF9517 (M)
tetragonoides GRF98153
sp. aff. *schultzii* GRF97103
sp. aff. *panamensis* GRF9781 (orange)
sp. nov. (*prunifer* ined.) GRF98174
sp. GRF9776 (yellow)
sp. GRF9788 (pinkish/yellow above)
sp. GRF97153 (peach/orange)
sp. GRF97166
sp. (yellow) GRF98151
sp. USBRG 98-030
sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.) (salmon calyx) GRF9521
sp. nov. (*plicatissimus* ined.) (green calyx) GRF9556

Alsobia (B)
dianthiflora
• *dianthiflora* 'Costa Rica'
punctata

Anodiscus
xanthophyllus (M)
xanthophyllus (Ecuador) GRF97109

Besleria
barclayi USBRG95-164
formicaria LS7560 (M)
laxifolia GRF9675 (M)
princeps GRF9479 (LM)
• *triflora* GRF9432 (LM)
sp. GRF9558 (LM)
sp. GRF9783 (orange w/yellow base)
sp. GRF97108 (orange)
sp. GRF97141 (orange)
sp. GRF9853 (yellow)
sp. GRF98139 (orange)
sp. USBRG 95-143

Boea
• *hemsleyana* (F, R)
hygroscopica (F, R)

Briggsia (A, R)
aurantiaca
muscicola
• *speciosa*

Capanea
grandiflora GRF9480 (M)

Chirita
caliginosa (LM)
elphinstonia (F,L)
• *fimbrisepala* (R)
• *fimbrisepala* #2 (R)
• *fimbrisepala* #12 (R)
• (*fimbrisepala* × *fimbrisepala* #2) × self
flavimaculata USBRG94-085
heterotricha USBRG94-088 (F, R)
involucrata (F, L)
lavandulacea (LM)
• *linearifolia*
• *longgangensis* USBRG94-081 (R)
micromusa (F, L)
pumila (F, L)
• *sericea* (LM)
sinensis latifolia (F, R)
sinensis latifolia (dwarf) (F, R)
• *spadiciformis* USBRG94-087
subrhomboidea (F, R)
tribracteata (R)
walkerae (LM)
sp. 'New York' USBRG85-022 (R)
'Hisako' × self (F, R)

Chrysothemis (F, LM)
friedrichsthaliana
friedrichsthaliana GRF9764
pulchella (Ecuador)
villosa
hybrid mix

Cobananthus
calochlamys (LM)

Codonanthe (B)
calcarata 'Puyo'
caribaea
• *carnosa*
cordifolia AC1201
corniculata
crassifolia
crassifolia GRF9858
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crassifolia 'Cranberry'
digna
digna 'Moonlight'
elegans
erubescens
gracilis
• *gracilis* USBRG86-148
• *gracilis* 'Kautsky' AC266

- *uleana* GRF9868
  paula
  serrulata AC1313
- *venosa* GRF91175

Codonanthopsis (S)
  peruviana (B, L)
  ulei (B, L)

Columnea (B)
- *argentea* (L)
  arguta
- *dodsonii*
  erythrophaea
  filipendula
  glicensteinii
  gloriosa
  gloriosa 'Superba'
  hirta
  hirta GRF9493
  hirta 'Dark Prince'
  hispida
  lepidocaula GRF9468
  linearis 'Purple Robe'
  maculata
  nicaraguensis CR92F16
  nicaraguensis GRF94105
  oerstediana GRF9423 (B)
  oxyphylla
  proctori W3573
  purpusii
- *querceti* (L)
  raymondii (LM)
  scandens var. *tulae* (yellow)
  schiedeana
  tomentulosa
- *urbanii* (L)
  verecunda MBG2204-60 (L)
  zebranella GRF1595

Conandron (A, R)
  ramondioides
  ramondioides/Awaji Island

Corytoplectus
  capitatus (LM)
  capitatus G291
  congestus GRF93259 (LM)
  cutucuensis (L)
  cutucuensis GRF9794
  riceanus GRF9654 (M)
- *speciosus* (L)
  sp. GRF9656 (M)

Dalbergaria (M)
  asteroloma
  asteroloma GRF9758
  asteroloma GRF97169 (white)
- *cruenta*
  eburnea
  medicinalis GRF9507
  ornata GRF2665
  perpulchra
  polyantha
  sanguinea
  sanguinea 'Orange King' GRF9492
  sp. GRF93191
  sp. GRF9797 (yellow)
  sp. GRF97160
  sp. GRF9852

Diastema (D, F, P)
- *latiflorum* GRF9668 (green leaf)
- *latiflorum* GRF9669A (white veins)
  racemiferum
  racemiferum GRF9757 (wine reverse)
  vexans

Didissandra
  frutescens (M)

Drymonia
  affinis GRF98109
  alloplectoides USBRG96-347 (B)
  brochidodroma USBRG95-156 (B)
- *coccinea*
  coccinea GRF9851
  coccinea GRF9873
  coccinea GRF98150
  conchocalyx (B)
  conchocalyx 'Silver Lance' × self (M)
  doratostyla GRF9674 (B)
  ecuadorensis 'Red Elegance' (LM)
  hoppii GRF98103
  macrophylla (M)
  pulchra GRF9889
  pulchra GRF98113
  rhodoloma (B)
  semicordata G2191
  serrulata (B)
  serrulata GRF9752
  strigosa (B)
  strigosa GRF1912
  turrialvae GRF9419 (LM)
  urceolata GRF93146 (LM)
  urceolata GRF97124 (red) (LM)
  urceolata GRF98154 (red w/yellow)
  sp. nov. (*umecta* ined.) (B)

Episcia (H, L, B, F)
  xantha
  cupreata hybrids mix
  hybrid mix

Eucodonia (D, F, P)
  andrieuxii
  verticillata 'Ehrenberg'
  hybrid mix

Gasteranthus (H)
  corallinus GRF95120 (LM)
  crispus USBRG98-033
- *wendlandianus* GRF97154
  wendlandianus GRF97163 (LM)
  wendlandianus GRF98166 (w/red spots)
- sp. GRF97118

Gesneria (H, F, L)
  acaulis

christii
cuneifolia
cuneifolia 'Esperanza'
cuneifolia 'Quebradillas'
cuneifolia 'Tom Talpey'
humilis
pumila
reticulata
reticulata 'El Yunque'
ventricosa (M)
'Flashdance'

Gloxinia (D)
gymnostoma (LM)
lindeniana (F, L)
nematanthodes (L)
perennis (LM)
perennis 'Insignis' (L)
• *purpurascens* GRF9670 (F,L)
racemosa (L)
sylvatica (LM)
sylvatica (Bolivia) USBRG94-002
'Medea' × self (F, L)
'Medusa' × self (F, L)

Haberlea (A, R)
ferdinandi-coburgii
rhodopensis

Hemiboea (D)
henryi (L)

Heppiella (D)
• *ulmifolia* GRF95141 (L)
ulmifolia GRF98172

Koellikeria (D, F, P)
erinoides
• *erinoides* 'Polo Polo'
erinoides 'Red Satin'

Kohleria (D)
hirsuta (F, L)
hirsuta USBRG96-163
hondensis (LM)
• *rugata* (LM)
spicata (M)
• *warszewiczii* (LM)
'Bermuda Red' × self (L)
eriantha × 'Bermuda Red' (L)
hybrid mix

Lysionotus (LM)
pauciflorus var. *ikedae*
pauciflorus var. *pauciflorus*
serratus
species

Mitraria
• *coccinea* (B, LM)

Monophyllaea (H, LM)
elongata
horsfieldii

Monopyle
macrocarpa GRF94123 (LM)
macrocarpa GRF98117

Moussonia
deppeana (M)
elegans (M)
elegans GRF9407
septentrionalis G1201 (F, LM)

Napeanthus (H)
costaricensis (F, P)
• *jelskyi* USBRG94-511 (F, P)
• *macrostoma* (F, P)
• *robustus* GRF9765 (L)

Nautilocalyx
adenosiphon (B, L)
colonensis (LM)
melittifolius (F, LM)

Nematanthus
australis (B)
brasiliensis (MT)
corticola (B)
crassifolius (B)
fissus (L)
fluminensis (B)
fornix (B)
fritschii (B)
gregarius (B)
hirtellus (B)
jolyanus (Sao Paulo) (B)
cf. *lanceolatus* AC2009
cf. *lanceolatus* AC2010
maculatus (B)
serpens (B)
strigillosus AC1434 (B)
wettsteinii (B)
sp. 'Santa Teresa' (B)
sp. GRF3555 (B)
• sp. MP50

Neomortonia
nummularia (B)

Opithandra (A, R)
primuloides

Ornithoboea
wildeana (L)

Paliavana (S, T)
prasinata
prasinata GRF732
prasinata GRF91126
tenuiflora

Paraboea
• species (Malaysia)

Paradrymonia
cilosa (L)
decurrens (L)
flava (F, L)
fuquaiana USBRG94-220
sp. nov. (*costaricana* ined.) (L)

Parakohleria
sprucei GRF95137
sp. nov. GRF88105 (red)

Pearcea
abunda (L)
• *hypocyrtiflora* (F, P)

Pentadenia
angustata (B)

byrsina (B)
crassicaulis (B)
manabiana (B)
microsepala GRF1837 (B)
orientandina (LM)
rileyi GRF86243 (LM)
spathulata GRF9503 (LM)
strigosa GRF95154 (B)
strigosa GRF9777
zapotalana (B)
Petrocosmea (R)
flaccida (F, P)
parryorum (F, P)
Phinaea (D, F, P)
albolineata
divaricata
• *ecuadorana* GRF8852
multiflora
multiflora 'Tracery'
Ramonda (A, R)
myconi —
alba
lavender
purple
rosea
myconi (upright rosette)
nathaliae
serbica
Rhabdothamnus
• *solandri*
***Rhynchoglossum* (H, L)**
gardneri
obliquum
Rhytidophyllum (G, H, S, T)
auriculatum
exsertum AC1583
leucomallon
tomentosum
villosulum
Saintpaulia (F, R)
• *difficilis* #2
grandifolia
intermedia
ionantha
pendula kizarae
shumensis
• *shumensis* EE
hybrid mix
Sinningia (D)
aggregata (M)
aggregata 'Pendulina' (B, L)
aggregata AC1461
• aff. *aggregata* (yellow)
• *aghensis* (T)
allagophylla (MT)
barbata (LM)
brasiliensis (M)
brasiliensis 'Verde'
brasiliensis AC1314
bulbosa (T)
calcaria MP891 (F, L)
canescens (F, L)
carangolensis (M)
cardinalis (F, LM)
cardinalis (compact) (F, L)
cardinalis 'Innocent'
cardinalis (pink)
• *cochlearis* AC2005 (LM)
conspicua (F, L)
conspicua (fragrant selection)
cooperi (LM)
cooperi AC1522
curtiflora (T)
• *defoliata* (L)
douglasii GRF91188 (LM)
douglasii (pink form) (M)
elatior AC1409 (M)
eumorpha (lavender) (F, L)
eumorpha (pink)
eumorpha (white)
• *gigantifolia* (LM)
• *glazioviana*
harleyi MP482 (F, L)
• *hatschbachii* (L)
hirsuta (F, L)
iarae (F, L)
insularis (LM)
leopoldii (F, L)
leucotricha (F, L)
lindleyi AC1501 (L)
lineata (LM)
lineata (highly spotted)
macropoda (M)
macropoda (dwarf form) (L)
macrorrhiza (T)
macrostachya (LM)
magnifica GRF91121 (pink) (LM)
magnifica GRF91134 (red)
mauroana (LM)
micans MP892 (LM)
nivalis AC1460 (L)
pusilla (F, P)
pusilla 'White Sprite' (F, P)
reitzii (M)
rupicola AC1511 (F, L)
sceptrum (T)
schiffneri (LM)
sellovii (MT)
sellovii 'Bolivia' USBRG96-003
sellovii 'Purple Rain'
speciosa 'Cabo Frio' MP178 (F, L)
speciosa 'Lavender Queen'
speciosa 'Regina'
speciosa 'Regina' AC1562
speciosa (Chiltern Seed Co)
speciosa AC1503
sulcata (LM)
tuberosa (F, L)
tubiflora (S, MT)
valsuganensis MP619 (LM)

villosa (F, L)
warmingii (T)
sp. aff. *warmingii* from Ilhabela MP631
sp. 'Lanata' MP622 (L)
cardinalis 'Innocent' × *iarae* (LM)
- *glazioviana* × *leopoldii* F_2
iarae × 'Bewitched' (F, L)
speciosa AC1503 × *specioa* 'Regina' (R)
eumorpha hybrids mix (F, R)
'Anna W.' × self (F, P)
'Anne Crowley' (F, L)
'Apricot Bouquet' × self (LM)
'Apricot Down' × self (L)
'April Starr' × self (F, P)
- 'Barbara Jean' × self (F, P)
'Bewitched' × self (F, L)
- 'Cherry Blush' × self (F, P)
'Diego' (red) (F, L)
'Diego' (pink)
'Diego' (purple)
'Dollbaby' (F, P)
- 'Foxfire' × self (F, P)
'Good Pink' × self (F, L)
'High Voltage' × self (F, P)
'Jubilee' × self (F, L)
'Krishna' × self (F, P)
'Leo B.' × self (F, P)
'Little Imp' (F, P)
- 'Mark Twain' × self (F, P)
- 'Mother of Pearl' × self (F, P)
'Mothers Day' × self (F, L)
'Pale Beauty' × self (L)
- 'Patty Ann' × self (F, P)
'Peaches' × self (F, P)
'Pink Ice' (F, P)
'Pink Imp' (F, P)
'Pure Pink' × self (F, P)
'Purple Crest' × self (F, P)
'Rosebells' × self (F, L)
'Ruby Red' × self (F, P)
- 'Saylor's Snowcap' × self (F, P)
'Scarlet Red' (F, P)
'Scarlet Sunset' (F, P)
'Star Eyes' (F, P)
'Sun Blaze' × self (L)
'Super Orange' (F, P)
'Super Red' × self (F, P)
'Tampa Bay Beauty' × self (L)
'Virgil' × self (L, M)
'Whimsey' × self (F, P)
'Angora Love' × 'Margaret' (L)
'Cherry Chips' hybrids mix (F, P)
'Georgia Sunset' hybrids mix (F, P)
- Marcia Belisle miniature hybrid mix (F, P)
- Al Wojcik miniature hybrid mix (F, P)
hybrid miniature mix (F, P)
pink hybrid miniature mix (F, P)

Sinningia speciosa (F, R)
blue mix
mini lavender
pink
purple
rose
white
orchid/purple mix
pink mix
pink/white mix
red mix
white w/red spots
Charles Lawn hybrid mix
hybrid mix
blue slipper
lavender slipper
pink slipper
purple slipper
mixed slipper
pink dwarf
red and white dwarf
Small's dwarf mix
white dwarf slipper

Smithiantha (D)
aurantiaca (F, L)
canarina GRF9105 (M)
cinnabarina (F, L)
laui GRF9117 (F, L)
multiflora GRF9121
multiflora GRF9122
zebrina GRF9104 (M)
'Little One' (F, L)
'Sunset' × self (F, L)
hybrid (yellow) (F, L)
hybrid mix (F, L)

Streptocarpus
baudertii (F, R)
bolusii (U)
buchananii (B)
caeruleus (R)
candidus (F, R)
caulescens (F, LM)
compressus (U)
confusus (U)
confusus ssp. *confusus* (U)
cooksonii (U)
cooksonii (dark purple)
cooperi (U)
cyanandrus (F, P)
cyaneus (blue) (R)
cyaneus (blue/long corolla)
cyaneus (blue/short corolla)
cyaneus (lilac)
daviesii (F, U)
denticulatus (U)
dunnii (U)
eylesii (U)
fanniniae (R)
fasciatus (R)
fenestra-dei (R)

floribundus (R)
- *formosus* (R)
gardenii (F, L)
glandulosissimus (B)
goetzei (U)
grandis (U)
grandis (blue form)
haygarthii (F, U)
holstii (LM)
johannis (F, R)
- sp. aff. *johannis*
kentaniensis MBG2335-60 (R)
kentaniensis (N. Kei River)
kentaniensis (S. Kei River)
kirkii (F, LM)
meyeri (F, R)
michelmorei (U)
modestus (R)
molweniensis (U)
molweniensis subsp. *eschowicus*
muscosus (L)
nobilis (M)
pallidiflorus (F, LM)
parviflorus (R)
parviflorus (mauve)
parviflorus (white/mauve)
pentherianus (F, L)
pole-evansii (R)
polyanthus (F, L)
polyanthus subsp. *comptonii*
polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*
polyanthus subsp. *polyanthus*/lg fl
polyanthus subsp. *verecundus*
porphyrostachys (U)
primulifolius (F, R)
prolixus (F, U)
pumilus (F, P)
rexii (F, L, R)
rexii (blue)
rexii (white)
rexii (pale blue/long corolla)
rexii (white/blue mix)
rimicola (F, P)
roseoalbus (R)
saundersii (U)
saxorum (B)
silvaticus (R)
stomandrus (F, L)
thompsonii (B, L)
thysanotus (B, L)
trabeculatus (U)
vandeleurii (U)
variabilis (F, R)
wendlandii (U)
wilmsii (U)
'Athena' × self (R)
'Black Panther' × self (R)
'Blue Angel' (B)
- 'Cape Beauties' (F, P)
- 'Georgette' × self (R)
'Karen' × self (R)
- 'Kitten Face' × self (R)
'Midnight Flame' × self (R)
- 'Network' × self (R)
'Pegasus' × self (R)
'Royal' (red) (R)
'Royal' (white/pink stripes) (R)
- 'Sandra' × self (R)
'Strawberry Crush' × self (R)
'Suzie' × self (R)
'Wild Grape' × self (R)
'Black Panther' hybrid mix (R)
Martin Kunhardt hybrid mix
New Zealand hybrid mix (F, R)
rexii hybrids (F, R)
Wiesmoor hybrids (F, R)
hybrid mix (F, R)
hybrid, lt blue/dk blue lines (R)
hybrid, lg. white
- *streptocarpella* hybrids (B)

Titanotrichum
oldhamii (propagules)

Trichantha
ambigua (B)
brenneri (LM)
citrina (B)
dodsonii GRF90158 (LM)
kucyniakii GRF93166 (MT)
minutiflora GRF9552 (LM)
purpureovittata (L, B)
sp. nov. (*molinae* ined.) GRF98159

Vanhouttea (S, T)
calcarata GRF3026

Mixed gesneriads

- denotes LIMITED quantities

(A)	Alpine or cool greenhouse.	(L)	Low growing; not more than 12 inches.
(B)	Suitable for hanging basket.	(LM)	Low to medium height.
(C)	Cool temperature necessary for bloom.	(M)	Medium height; 1 to 2 feet.
(D)	Has dormant period, forming tubers or rhizomes.	(MT)	Medium to tall.
(F)	Blooms readily under fluorescent light.	(P)	Petite or miniature; not more than 6 inches tall.
(G)	Recommended for greenhouses; requires space.	(R)	Rosette in form.
(H)	Requires humidity and warmth.	(S)	Requires sun to bloom.
		(T)	Tall plants; generally over 3 feet.
		(U)	Unifoliate or single leaf.

The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund

Molly Schneider, Chairman
608 Hillwood Dr., Nashville, TN 37205

The 13th annual Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund held very successful live and silent auctions at the July 1998 AGGS Convention in Chicago, Illinois. We all raised $3,700 (very close to the highest total in Toronto in 1994) thanks to 57 donors and their 210 items. Bidding was especially active on the unique plant material. GHA speaker Jeff Smith as well as The Strybing Arboretum, with the assistance of Jon Dixon, donated a large number of these unique plants.

1998 was the year of the tee shirts with several donations of unique, often hand-done gesneriads on the shirts. The Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Auctions would never be possible without the help of 25 loyal workers—many thanks to you all for your many years of support. Thanks to all bidders for making our 13th year another successful AGGS fundraiser, and a big thank you to all the donors:

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Tare Five
Timber Press
Tennessee Gesneriad Society
MJ and Dave Tyler
Wallace Wells

My appreciation to all who have worked, donated and bid over 13 years since AGGS first formed the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund. With the support of so many people in the past, the FBEF balance is over $100,000 which is the goal Nellie Sleeth envisoned from the start. After 13 years (and $100,000), I am resigning as chair of the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund. The new Fund Chair will be Doris Carson who has provided invaluable assistance over the years. I encourage you all to continue to support Doris and the fund as you have done all those years as donors, bidders and helpers.

Slide Programs

Marlene Beam, Library and Education Chairman
1736 S. Oakland St., Aurora, CO 80012-5249

Slide programs are a picturesque accompaniment that integrate historical and cultural information about species and hybrids for your chapter's use. Plan your programs in advance and order early. New programs kindle great interest. If your chapter would like to create a new program, please do not hesitate to contact me.

AGGS library items (books, old issues of THE GLOXINIAN and other articles) are available at botanical gardens and can be obtained through a local library on an inter-library loan.

The list below indicates the slide programs currently available and supersedes all prior listings. Make checks payable to AGGS for $20.00 in U.S. funds. Please enclose a self-addressed envelope when ordering or making inquiries, and also indicate your chapter.

Achimenes (1996) 57 slides

Convention 1998 Flower Show "Chicago is… *Your* Kind of Town" (1998) 67 slides

Convention 1997 Flower Show "Colorful Colorado" (1997) 62 slides

Introduction to Gesneriads (1996) 56 slides

Streptocarpus by Chris Kunhardt (compiled by Darrell Trout) (1994) 65 slides

The Companion Genera: *Codonanthe, Nematanthus*, ×*Codonatanthus* (Revised 1997) 77 slides

The Genus *Chirita* (1998) 61 slides

The Genus *Sinningia* (1995) 56 slides

Thank you for your cooperation and interest in this educational opportunity. Watch for new programs soon to be listed in THE GLOXINIAN.

More *Rhabdothamnus* Ramblings

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Readers of THE GLOXINIAN may recall the article on collecting *Rhabdothamnus* which appeared a year ago in the First Quarter 1998 issue (Vol. 48, No.1). This covered a trip to the Puriri area to collect *Rhabdothamnus* seeds for the AGGS Seed Fund. Since this article was written, I have further information on some surprising habitats for this species, together with the availability of a yellow-flowered form, so a further article seemed appropriate.

A number of localities, scattered around the North Island of New Zealand, are mentioned and these are indicated on a simple outline map of the island.

For about ten years I have been paying annual visits to a site at Woodhill to the north-west of Auckland, our largest city, as part of my work as an environmental consultant. This site is a valley set among old sand dunes, with a small stream flowing down the valley floor. The stream is spring-fed and subject to possible contamination from a waste-disposal site. My annual visit is to monitor this contamination.

North Island of New Zealand showing localities mentioned

Rhabdothamnus solandri growing just above the high water mark beside the Manganuiateao River

The valley is mostly in pasture, with occasional clumps of remnant coastal forest (the site is within 4 kilometres of the Tasman Sea). During previous visits I had not inspected this vegetation closely, but during my visit of December 1997, I had some spare time and climbed the sides of the valley to approach a small forest remnant. This remnant clings to the sides of a small side gully, and is shaded by pohutukawa (*Metrosideros excelsa*) and other trees. Much to my surprise, the ground level vegetation turned out to be dominated by *Rhabdothamnus solandri* and a few ferns. These were growing in a 'soil' consisting of sand grains cemented together with iron oxides. The soil was quite dry, with limited water-holding capacity, and the plants were often clinging to near-vertical faces. The root systems were spread in a shallow mat over the upper centimetre or two of soil.

The *Rhabdothamnus* population here produced flowers of a particularly rich orange, and I collected a couple of small seedlings which have settled down nicely in cultivation. The growth habit of *Rhabdothamnus* is much-branching and tangled. This habit, common in New Zealand understory species, is referred to as divaricating. Some botanists believe that this habit evolved as a defense against browsing by moas (a very large, flightless bird, now extinct). It was interesting to see that some of these plants grew in open pasture which was obviously subject to heavy grazing by sheep and cattle. Yet the *Rhabdothamnus* plants were quite untouched. Are they distasteful or is the divaricating habit really a good defense?

In late March, I went on a trout fishing trip, with our local angling club, to the Manganuiateao River in the central North Island. This river flows off the slopes of Mount Ruapehu (which some of you may have seen in eruption on your TV news two or three years back) and eventually enters the Tasman Sea. The area which we were to fish is at the bottom of a deep valley, about

30 kilometres as the crow flies from the summit of Mount Ruapehu which is snow-covered for several months each year. New Zealand is a mountainous country, but this valley is the first place that I've visited where I have been unable to find any radio station, AM or FM, on my car radio!

The valley gets very cold in winter, although it is only at about 400 metres altitude, and snow may fall and persist in winter. The river is very attractive, although still somewhat choked with ash from recent eruptions. But what were those shrubs growing along the river bank? Surely not? Yes, here was *Rhabdothamnus*, in a much colder climate than I would have thought to find it. I temporarily abandoned the fishing, and found further colonies growing under patches of bush (open to grazing) further up the valley sides. A fairly ordinary strain, with the usual orange red flowers, but surprisingly cold hardy. Certainly the downhill rush of the river to the sea would assist in draining away cold air, but in winter there must be a generous supply of cold air to drain! *Rhabdothamnus* is generally described as a plant of coastal forests, and by New Zealand standards this area was far from coastal.

There were only a few seed capsules visible, which I collected and placed in my fly box for safe keeping. Alas, later I absent-mindedly opened this and the seed pods floated merrily off towards the distant sea. However, I will be back — "Return, Recollect" as Frederic Sander telegraphed to one of his orchid collectors when a large shipment of orchids was lost in a cyclone. And the trout fishing? Well, the less said about that the better. But a very pretty place to visit.

Just a few days before writing this, three young plants of *Rhabdothamnus solandri* 'yellow' arrived for me. There was a withered flower still attached to one, and the rich yellow colour indicated that they were the real thing. The original cultivated material of the yellow form was collected from the Kaitake Range (see Map) several decades ago, but seems to have largely disappeared. The plants which were sent to me were grown from cuttings taken from a cultivated plant growing in Taranaki Province, not far from the Kaitake Range, so they are likely to be derived from this original collection. They have smaller leaves than most plants which I have seen, and seem less vigorous than most.

Occasionally the yellow form has been found elsewhere. A botanist friend has seen yellow flowered plants growing on the Hen and Chickens Islands (see Map). In the early years of this century, Fanny Osborne, living on isolated Great Barrier Island (about 90 kilometres north-east of Auckland) developed an interest in painting flowers, particularly the native flora which surrounded her home. I have a copy of *Fanny Osborne's Flower Paintings* (Jeanne Goulding, 1983, Publ. Heinemann) which contains delightful paintings of both an orange and a soft yellow form of *Rhabdothamnus solandri*. The text comments "Here, the specimen which Fanny Osborne painted was a soft yellow and was probably collected in the bush near her home at Tryphena, Great Barrier Island". It is noticeable that the form which is shown has no striping visible, unlike the orange-red forms, which are usually heavily striped. The form which Mrs. Osborne painted had leaves of similar size to the orange form.

Also with my yellow plants was a pale orange form, which is very attractive. My yellow plants have more flower buds developing, which may or may not survive the winter. However, with luck, before too long I may be able to send seed of the yellow form to the AGGS Seed Fund. Let us hope that they are self-fertile!

Postscript (written mid-October):

I recently planted out several *Rhabdothamnus* varieties (including my precious yellows) in a new bed, made under high shade, which they share with ferns and clivias. The yellows "went back" to some extent over the winter (which was very mild, but wet) but one flower has just opened, and has been photographed. Remember that this flower has only recently opened, and is borne on a plant less than six inches high. The colour can be expected to deepen as the flower matures. So far, the flower seems distinctly smaller than those of the orange forms.

Rhabdothamnus solandri 'yellow' — the colour can be expected to deepen later in the season (notice the absence of striping)

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Two Steps to Nashville

Carol Ann Bonner <bonnerca@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu>
3705 Tibbs Drive, Nashville, TN 37211

If you went to the AGGS Convention in Nashville in 1983, don't think you've been to Nashville—we're a whole new city. Fort Nashboro, a reconstruction of the original settlement in the late 1700's, is still on First Avenue, but five blocks away our new arena sits like a giant flying saucer tilting precariously toward Broadway. You can still get a southern style meat-and-three at Elliston Place Soda Shop or you can walk across West End for sushi at Go-Ten. Put on your boots and go line dancing at Wildhorse Saloon or kick back for a jazz brunch at Mere Bulles. We're still Music City USA... but now it's everybody's music.

Our population has grown 22% since 1983 and they're from all over—come to build the stadium and office towers and homes for the people who will work there, or teach or study at one of our sixteen colleges and universities, or open a restaurant, or drive a cab, or play professional football. And yes, people also come to Nashville to make it in the music industry. The traffic is terrible, the drivers are worse, but the diversity of language and faces and food and music is intoxicating, and we'll be right in the thick of it.

Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel is across the street from the Vanderbilt University campus with its venerable magnolias and an overcup oak more than 200 years old. Take the self-guided tour of this registered arboretum to discover over 60 labeled tree species. Jonathan Ertelt manages the greenhouses there and is making progress in re-establishing gesneriads in the collection. On your way to stroll through the campus, stop at Vanderbilt's Fine Art Gallery to see what's showing in July.

For more art, travel west a few blocks to Centennial Park to visit the Parthenon, Nashville's famous replica of the ancient Greek temple. Inside is a magnificent statue of Athena herself (quite a controversial move in this buckle of the Bible belt!), sculpted according to information available in ancient texts about the original piece. Art exhibits rotate in the basement of the building.

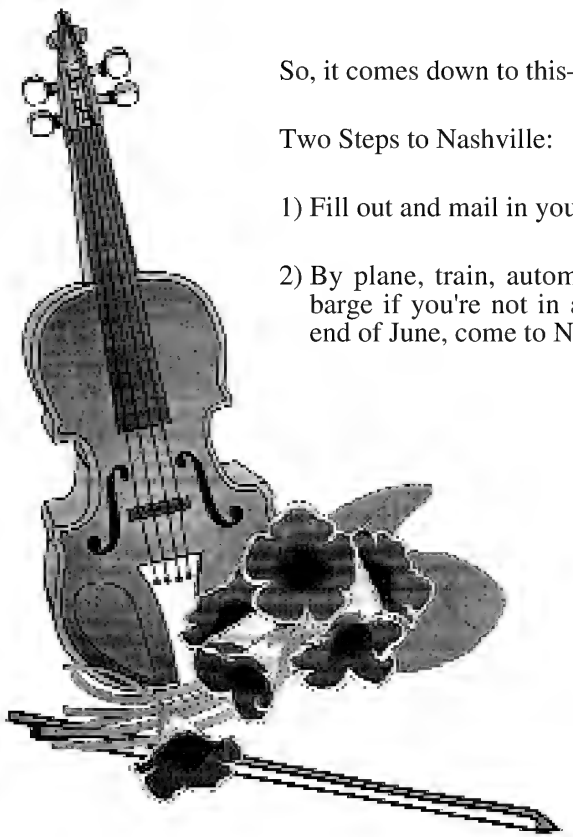
Hungry? Nashville has so many restaurants you'd think our houses didn't have kitchens. From Loews you are within very easy walking distance of more than a dozen places to eat, not counting fast food. History buff? There are several antebellum mansions, historic Germantown, the Tennessee State Museum, and a downtown walking tour that highlights work of the noted architect William Strickland. Have a taste for kitsch? Spend some time with the tourists on Second Avenue and don't miss our new Farmers' Market with its ten foot concrete ears of corn. Of course, there are the country music attractions: the Country Music Hall of Fame, the Country Music Wax Museum, and Ryman Auditorium. Live music? There are singer/songwriters at Bluebird Cafe, bluegrass at Station Inn, a free rock concert every Thursday at Riverfront Park, and lots, lots more. That's not all, but I'm out of breath.

You'll find our plant sales tables as diverse as our city with a lot of interesting compact *Sinningia* hybrids by Richard Holder, a wide variety of *Columnea* species and hybrids (my favorites), and spectacular African violets from our local *Saintpaulia* mavens. Commercial vendors should be especially

well represented, too, so bring an empty suitcase! Shoot, bring a truck! And don't forget to register by April 1st to gain early admittance to the plant sales.

And now a word to those readers who have never attended an AGGS Convention: Don't let another golden opportunity pass you by! Nashville is within 600 miles of 50% of the U.S. population—a one-day drive or less. It's only a two-hour flight from Toronto! Okay, so it's a little farther from Australia... but come anyway! An AGGS Convention is your chance to immerse yourself in your hobby, taking the plunge with like-minded people who won't think you're at all peculiar if you save the little creamer containers that come with your coffee to use as flower pots. You'll exchange cultural tips with highly knowledgeable and experienced growers, chat with the people behind the catalog you ordered plants from last spring, and hobnob with those who have made the study of gesneriads their profession. There is the not-to-be-underestimated experience offered by judging school wherein you hone your skills of observation and analysis while simultaneously learning about new plant material.

And gesneriad people are nice! As a matter of fact, the Tennessee Gesneriad Society was once paid a great compliment by the (at-that-time) head horticulturist at Cheekwood Botanical Gardens. He said we were the least weird plant people he knew. Now, what other chance will you have in your entire life to vacation in Music City USA, and socialize with folks who grow gesneriads, of all things, at an affair hosted by the Least Weird Plant People?



So, it comes down to this—

Two Steps to Nashville:

1) Fill out and mail in your registration;

2) By plane, train, automobile (or river barge if you're not in a hurry), at the end of June, come to Nashville!

The 3G's Columnea Project: *Colorful Columnea*

The initial portion of the Columnea Project, *Colorful Columnea,* by the Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers of Denver is now ready for sale.

Colorful Columnea is available as loose-leaf pages in a folder. The loose-leaf format was decided upon because it is anticipated that additional pages will become available for purchase to be inserted in correct order. If the pages are not kept in the folder, it is envisioned that they will be placed into a notebook, either by punching holes or by placing the pages in protective plastic sleeves.

The 32-page book has 18 color pages, each with a description, and 17 pages with two 3.5" x 5" photographs. Eleven species, two varieties, and six fancy-named hybrids are described. *Colorful Columnea* features an overview as to where columneas grow and how that relates to their general culture. There is an eight-page glossary with some line drawings, and a technical description of *Columnea* in the narrow sense, excluding *Dalbergaria, Pentadenia,* and *Trichantha.*

Copies can be purchased for $20.00 plus $5.00 for shipping (total $25.00 check payable to The Gloxinia Gesneriad Growers) by writing to: Bonita Hutcheson (Treasurer), 3166 South Clay Street, Sheridan, CO 80110-1925.

Miriam L. Denham, Chair

Columnea arguta — one of the species described and illustrated in *Colorful Columnea* (Photo by Dale Denham)

43rd ANNUAL AGGS CONVENTION — 1999

Wednesday, June 30th, to Saturday, July 3rd, 1999

Convention Registration Form

Mail to Convention Registrar:
Holly Waldrop, 742 Templeton Drive, Nashville, TN 37205

Please print:

Name(s) _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

AGGS Membership Category: ____ Individual ____ Family

____ Sustaining ____ Research ____ Life

Membership # (Top Line of current TG label) _____

☐ Chapter Affiliation _____

☐ Commercial Affiliation (name of nursery/greenhouse) _____

☐ AGGS Officer (specify)_____

☐ AGGS Director _____

☐ AGGS Chairman/Staff (specify) _____

☐ Convention Chairman (specify) _____

☐ AGGS Chapter President _____

First AGGS Convention? Yes_____ No _____

Please indicate special diet needs _____

_____

All reservations must be received by May 28, 1999. Registrations received after that date will be on a space-available basis and will be charged an additional late fee of $25. Registration fee includes registration packet and lectures except the Judges Training School for which there is a separate registration.

Please make checks or money orders payable, in US$ on a US bank to: **AGGS**

Or, charge my ☐ VISA, or ☐ MasterCard the total amount of $ _____

Card # _____ Exp Date _____ Signature _____

Event	No.	Cost USD	Total
Individual	_____	@ $30.00 =	$ _____
Family (incl. spouse & children)	_____	@ $40.00 =	$ _____
Wednesday, June 30, Opening Breakfast	_____	@ $16.00 =	$ _____
Thursday, July 1, Tour to Holtkamp Greenhouses, Lunch, and Opryland Hotel	_____	@ $35.00 =	$ _____
Friday, July 2, Continental Breakfast	_____	@ $11.00 =	$ _____
Friday, July 2, Membership Luncheon	_____	@ $20.00 =	$ _____
Friday, July 2, Flower Show Awards Banquet	_____	@ $35.00 =	$ _____
Saturday, July 3, Breakfast	_____	@ $16.00 =	$ _____
Saturday, July 3, Luncheon	_____	@ $20.00 =	$ _____
Saturday, July 3, Tour, BBQ & Entertainment	_____	@ $38.00 =	$ _____
Late Charge (if received after May 28, 1999)	_____	@ $25.00 =	$ _____
Total Amount Enclosed			$ _____

Be sure to register by April 1 for early admittance to plant sales!

For your convenience, registration and plant sales will be open for longer hours—see the Convention Program on pages 25-26. Will you volunteer a few hours of your time to help with staffing?

Registration Table: _____ (day) _____ (time/s)

Plant Sales: _____ (day) _____ (time/s)

Flower Show Host: _____ (day) _____ (time/s)

Distribute Table Favors and Take Meal Tickets: _____ (day) _____ (time/s)

1999 AGGS Convention Program

"Topping the Charts"

Tuesday, June 29

1:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	AGGS Board of Directors Meeting
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information

Wednesday, June 30

7:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Opening Breakfast. Greetings and Remarks: Carol Ann Bonner, Local Convention Chairman; Helen Freidberg, AGGS Convention Chairman; Jon Dixon, AGGS President
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Judges Training, Session 1-A Pre-registration and AGGS membership required
8:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Judges Training, Session 1-B Pre-registration and AGGS membership required
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon	Chapter Presidents Meeting with Jon Dixon, AGGS President
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Judges Training Session 2, A&B
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Judges Interest Group Meeting
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Internet Communications Meeting
4:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Round Robin Meeting
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Newsletter Editors Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Judges Test
7:45 p.m. - 10:15 p.m.	Gesneriad Hybridizers Association Meeting (open to everyone)

Thursday, July 1

8:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.	Tour of Holtkamp Greenhouses followed by lunch at Opryland Hotel and a special guided tour of its three "interiorscapes"
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.	Convention Registration and Information
6:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Flower Show Entries; Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund Auction donations accepted
10:00 p.m. - Midnight	Plant Sales & Auction Viewing

Friday, July 2

6:00 a.m. - 6:30 a.m.	Flower Show late entries (with written permission of Flower Show Chairperson, Molly Schneider)
6:30 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast for judges, clerks and show personnel who should include this meal with their registration
7:00 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.	Flower Show Judging
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Continental Breakfast honoring Special Interest Groups
9:15 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Convention Registration, Plant Sales and Auction Viewing
10:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.	Lecture #1: "Wild, Wild Gesneriads" by Christian Feuillet
12:00 noon - 1:45 p.m.	AGGS Membership Meeting and Luncheon, President Jon Dixon presiding; Awards of Appreciation; Election of Directors
2:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Lecture #2: "Kohleria: Seeing Spots Before My Eyes" by Patrick Worley
2:00 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	Flower Show open
3:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.	AGGS Board of Directors Meeting
6:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.	Cocktail Hour
7:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.	Flower Show Awards Banquet (Awards Chair: Colleen Turley; Auction Chair: Doris Carson)
10:00 p.m. - 11:30 p.m.	Flower Show, Plant Sales and Auction Viewing

Saturday, July 3

6:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m.	Photographers only in Flower Show room
7:00 a.m. - 8:00 a.m.	Flower Show Judges Critique (for judges and clerks who participated in the 1999 Flower Show)
8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	Breakfast honoring Host Chapter, AGGS Chapters and Members-at-Large
9:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.	Auction Viewing
9:00 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Flower Show and Plant Sales Open
9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.	Lecture #3: "Going to Extremes with Gesneriads" by Jonathan Ertelt
11:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	Lecture #4: "Greenhouse Growing: The Smithsonian Collection" by Leslie Brothers
12:30 p.m.	Silent Auction closes
12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Luncheon honoring AGGS Commercial Growers, Friends-at-Large, et al.; Endowment Fund live plant auction and silent auction wrap-up
2:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.	Flower Show and Plant Sales breakdown
4:00 p.m. - 10:30 p.m.	Tour of Cheekwood Botanical Gardens; barbecue and dance at Traveller's Rest

Sunday, July 4

9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.	AGGS Board of Directors meeting

AGGS Convention Show Schedule

"Topping the Charts"

July 2 and 3, 1999

Entries will be accepted on Thursday, July 1, from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. Late entries may be received on Friday morning, from 6:00 a.m. to 6:30 a.m. only with the written permission of and by prior arrangement with the Flower Show Chairperson.

Division I — HORTICULTURE

Saintpaulia permitted only in Classes 19, 20, 21, 22 and 23

SECTION A — Tuberous Gesneriads in Flower

Class 1 *Sinningia speciosa* species or hybrids (upright or pendent flowers)
Class 2 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (more than 10" in diameter)
Class 3 Other *Sinningia* species or hybrids (between 5" and 10" in diameter)
Class 4 Other tuberous gesneriads

SECTION B — Rhizomatous Gesneriads in Flower

Class 5 *Achimenes*
Class 6 *Gloxinia*
Class 7 *Kohleria*
Class 8 Other rhizomatous gesneriads

SECTION C — Fibrous-Rooted Gesneriads in Flower

Class 9 *Aeschynanthus*
Class 10 *Chirita*
Class 11 *Codonanthe, ×Codonatanthus*
Class 12 *Columnea, Dalbergaria, Pentadenia, Trichantha* species, hybrids or cultivars
Class 13 *Episcia, Alsobia*
Class 14 *Episcia* (largest leaf less than 2" in length)
Class 15 *Gesneria*
Class 16 *Nautilocalyx*
Class 17 *Nematanthus*
Class 18 *Petrocosmea*
Class 19 *Saintpaulia* species
Class 20 *Saintpaulia* standard hybrid or cultivar (limit one entry per exhibitor)
Class 21 *Saintpaulia* miniature (6" or less in diameter) (limit one entry per exhibitor)
Class 22 *Saintpaulia* semi-miniature (8" or less in diameter) (limit one entry per exhibitor)
Class 23 *Saintpaulia* trailer (limit one entry per exhibitor)
Class 24 *Streptocarpus,* caulescent (ssp. *Streptocarpella)*
Class 25 *Streptocarpus,* acaulescent, rosulate, plurifoliate
Class 26 *Streptocarpus,* acaulescent, unifoliate
Class 27 Other fibrous-rooted gesneriads

SECTION D — Gesneriads Grown Primarily for Foliage or Fruit

Decorative fruit is permitted, but no flowers or buds showing color. A plant should have some special quality of color, texture or growth habit to be entered in this section.

Class 28 *Episcia*
Class 29 *Episcia* with pink-and-white leaf variegation
Class 30 *Chirita*
Class 31 Other gesneriads with variegated foliage
Class 32 Other gesneriads

SECTION E — Miniature Gesneriads in Flower

Any gesneriads less than 5" in diameter. Multiple crowns or more than one plant permitted as long as total leaf expanse does not exceed size limitations.

Class 33 Tuberous
Class 34 Tuberous (largest leaf less than 1" long)
Class 35 Rhizomatous
Class 36 Fibrous-rooted

SECTION F — New Gesneriads

This section is for introductions made within the last two years, but not previously entered in an AGGS Convention show. A card must accompany each entry, giving information for educational purposes, such as, name of hybridizer, collector, place of origin, special cultural requirements.

Class 37 Species in flower
Class 38 Species not in flower
Class 39 Hybrid or named cultivar in flower
Class 40 Hybrid or named cultivar not in flower

SECTION G — Lesser-Known Gesneriads Seldom Grown or Seen in Shows

A card must be supplied by the exhibitor giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural requirements.

Class 41 In flower
Class 42 Not in flower

SECTION H — Collections of Gesneriads

A grouping of 3 to 5 different plants in flower or grown for foliage, or in combination. Exhibitor is encouraged to stage the plants as a unit since this is a consideration in judging this section. Exhibitor should provide a card with identification of plants and in Classes 44 and 45, educational information.

Class 43 Plants of a single genus, either species, cultivars or hybrids
Class 44 Kinship group — Intergeneric hybrid/hybrids with one or more parents
Class 45 Kinship group — Interspecific hybrid/hybrids with one or more parents

SECTION I — Novice

Anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in a gesneriad flower show. An exhibitor wishing Novice status may not enter other Horticulture classes with the exception of Classes 19, 20, 21, 22, or 23.

Class 46 Tuberous gesneriad in flower
Class 47 Rhizomatous gesneriad in flower
Class 48 Fibrous-rooted gesneriad in flower
Class 49 Any gesneriad grown for foliage (no flowers or buds showing color)

Division II — ARTISTIC

GESNERIADS MUST PREDOMINATE. No artificial plant material allowed; other live and dried materials permitted. Accessories optional. Plant material used should be identified on an accompanying card. Table covering will be a neutral color. White niches will be provided for Sections J and K; exhibitors may provide additional draping. Reservations for Sections J and K may be sent to Rosemary Dobson, 3 Shilton Road, Scarborough, Ontario, M1S 2J4, Canada; phone: 416-293-9036. Please reserve by June 9.

SECTION J — Arrangement of Fresh Cut Plant Material

Class 50 "The Nashville Opera Company Season"—a classical opera company. A design for a niche 24"H x 20"W x 16"D. Exhibitor must identify the opera inspiring the entry on the entry card.

Class 51 "Nashville Shuffle Boogie" (Mark O'Connor and the New Nashville Cats, 1991)—An arrangement of *nonflowering* material for a 20"H x 18"W x 16"D space.

Class 52 "Walkin' After Midnight" (Patsy Cline, 1961) Miniature design, dimensions no greater than 10"H x 9"W x 7"D. Novice only—anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad flower show. An exhibitor wishing Novice status for the Artistic Division may not enter other Artistic classes with the exception of Class 64.

Class 53 "Walkin' After Midnight" (Patsy Cline, 1961) Miniature design, dimensions no greater than 10"H x 9"W x 7"D. Non-novice only.

Class 54 "All Shook Up" (Elvis Presley, 1957) An arrangement for a 20"H x 18"W x 16"D niche.

Class 55 "Tennessee Waltz" (Patti Page, 1951) A design using two containers, niche size 24"H x 20"W x 16"D.

SECTION K — Arrangement Using Growing Gesneriad(s)

Class 56 "Blackberry Winter" (by Connie Ellisore, performed by the Nashville Chamber Orchestra, 1997) Blackberry winter is a cold snap near the end of spring, just when the blackberry brambles are flowering. An arrangement in green and white for a 24"H x 20"W x 16"D space.

Class 57 "Flying Saucer Dude" (Bela Fleck and The Flecktones, 1991) A miniature arrangement for a 10"H x 9"W x 7"D niche.

Class 58 "Barn Yard Disturbance" (Edgar Meyer, double bassist, 1996) An arrangement of nonflowering gesneriads to fit a 20"H x 18"W x 16"D space.

SECTION L — Growing Material in a Planting (Artistically and Horticulturally Balanced)

Class 59 Terrarium, straight-sided

Class 60 Terrarium, curved

Class 61 Tray landscape

Class 62 Trained or sculptured gesneriads—bonsai, topiary, espaliered, or other style

Class 63 Other container, not the usual form of plastic or clay pot

Class 64 Novice (Anyone who has never won a blue ribbon in the artistic division of a gesneriad flower show.) An exhibitor wishing Novice status for the Artistic Division may not enter other Artistic classes with the exception of Class 52. Entries suitable for any of the classes in Section L.

Division III — THE ARTS

All entries must feature gesneriads in some form. Limit, one entry per exhibitor per class, and not previously exhibited in any AGGS Convention Show. Each entry must have been made by the exhibitor.

SECTION M — Photography

Must have been taken by the exhibitor. Prints must be mounted. The subject should be identified on the entry card. Prints should not exceed 8" x 10". Mats not to exceed 11" x 14". Exhibitors must provide an easel for prints 5" x 7" or over. Slides must be mounted for projection in a standard carousel projector.

Class 65 Color transparency

Class 66 Color print

Class 67 Black and white print

SECTION N — Crafts Representing Gesneriads

Class 68 Painting or drawing (easel must be provided by exhibitor)

Class 69 Textile (a card must accompany each entry, giving the source of the design)

Class 70 Other crafts

Division IV — COMMERCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL

Reservations for Sections O and P may be sent to Michael Riley, 101 W. 104th St., New York, NY 10025 (212-666-2395). Please reserve by June 9.

SECTION O — Commercial

Class 71 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (10 or more plants)

Class 72 Display table with a grouping of gesneriads (less than 10 plants)

SECTION P — Educational

Class 73 Exhibit illustrating phases of scientific or historical research or gesneriad promotion

Class 74 Exhibit of plant material

Class 75 Exhibit of photograph(s)

This class is for photographs of gesneriad plant material seldom seen in shows and of botanical interest. The class is appropriate for plants which are seasonal or are rare in cultivation. A card must be supplied by the exhibitor giving educational information such as habitat, source, special cultural information, and reason for inclusion in this class.

RULES

1. Entries shall be in accordance with the schedule.
2. Exhibitors need not be members of AGGS.
3. Entries will be accepted only during hours specified. Entries arriving after classes close will be placed for exhibit only, and will not be judged.
4. All exhibits for competition will be approved by the Classification Committee. Non-conformity to the schedule may bring disqualification.
5. An exhibitor is limited to one specimen of the same plant per class in the Horticulture Division. An exhibitor may submit more than one entry per class, provided each entry is a different species, cultivar or hybrid unless otherwise prohibited.
6. In fairness to amateur growers, institutions may not make more than two entries in the Horticulture, Artistic or Arts Divisions of the flower show. The same restriction applies to commercial growers who have employees who assist with the culture and grooming of potential entries.
7. Classes may be subdivided or consolidated by the Show Chairman after entries close.
8. No entries may be removed from the showroom until the show closes. All entries must be checked out through the Show Committee.
9. All plants must be grown by the exhibitor and have been in the exhibitor's possession for at least three months prior to the show. This rule does not apply to plant material used in artistic arrangements in Division II.
10. All entries will be staged in the showroom by the Placement Committee. Artistic arrangements and collections can be executed in the showroom by the exhibitor in the space designated, and during the stated time for entries. Cut blossoms or plant material may be placed in artistic arrangements on Friday morning from 6:00 to 6:30 a.m. by previous arrangement with the Artistic Reservations Chairman.
11. Exhibitors will be permitted to indicate the front of a horticultural entry.
12. All plants must be free of insects and disease. All will be inspected, including commercial and educational exhibits.
13. AGGS standard competitive judging will be used.
14. Awards will be made according to the following point scores: 1st, blue ribbon, 90-100; 2nd, red ribbon, at least 80; 3rd, yellow ribbon, at least 70. Honorable Mention may also be awarded.
15. Special Awards (more than a class ribbon) will be reserved for AGGS members only unless otherwise offered to non-members. An exhibit must score 90 or above to be considered.
16. There will be two Sweepstakes Awards: one for the Horticulture Division; one for the Artistic Division. An exhibitor must win a minimum of 3 blue ribbons to be eligible for this award. Reserved for AGGS members only.
17. The award for Best Gesneriad in Show in the Horticulture Division (excluding *Saintpaulia*) is given for horticultural perfection. A plant must score 95 points or over to be considered for this award. Reserved for AGGS members only.
18. AGGS will endeavor to protect all entries but assumes no responsibility for loss or damage.

EXHIBITOR'S INFORMATION

The exhibitor should prepare a list of plants and other exhibits with the appropriate Section and Class numbers to facilitate the work of the Entries Committee. The Flower Show Committee will assist in identifying material unknown to the exhibitor.

No particular type of container is specified for the Horticulture Division. Whatever is used should be clean. Foil covering should be avoided. A protective container or cover made of transparent material to shield delicate plant material from dry air or cold drafts may be used for any exhibit requiring it. Such plants may be judged uncovered.

Growing material established in situ should present a practical horticultural method of growing, not a temporary insertion for display only. This section covers entries such as terrariums, dish gardens, bonsai and material grown in containers other than the usual plastic or clay pots. Straight-sided terrariums are composed of flat pieces of glass or plastic; curved terrariums are composed of rounded pieces.

The class for a collection of gesneriads of one genus stresses horticulture primarily, but as this serves to focus attention on a special group, there should be some degree of presentation. Uniform type and color of container would be a first step toward unity. Some simple staging to provide different levels may be provided by the exhibitor. The plants might be grouped in a basket or a tray.

Photography: The photographer is being judged on the skill, technique and composition displayed, not on the quality of the plant material chosen as a subject.

Educational exhibits may be entered by institutions, chapters, study groups, or individuals. Any project relating to gesneriads may be presented with illustrative material which may or may not include live plant material.

Convention Chairmen

AGGS Convention	Helen Freidberg (781-891-9164) <HelenDF@aol.com> 11 Arrowhead Road, Weston, MA 02193
AGGS Auction	Doris Carson
AGGS Awards	Colleen Turley
AGGS Shows & Judging	Ben Paternoster
Local Convention	Carol Ann Bonner (615-331-5470) 3705 Tibbs Dr., Nashville, TN 37211
Artwork & Pamphlet	Carol Ann Bonner <bonnerca@ctrvax.vanderbilt.edu>
Convention Packet	Jean Thompson
Hospitality	Diane Fischer & Carra O'Daniel
Plant Sales	Richard Holder
Publicity	Audrey Longhurst
Registration	Holly Waldrop 742 Templeton Drive, Nashville, TN 37205
Speakers	Jonathan Ertelt
Special Events/Transportation	Julie Mavity-Hudson
Flower Show	Molly Schneider (615-356-9655) 608 Hillwood Drive, Nashville, TN 37205
Artistic Schedule & Reservations	Rosemary Dobson
Classification & Plant Inspection	John Boggan & Peter Shalit
Educational & Commercial	Michael Riley (212-666-2395) <riley2362@aol.com> 101 West 104th Street, New York, NY 10025
Entries & Tag Writers	Bill Crews
Judges & Clerks	Lee Linett
Placement	Elizabeth Varley
Plant Maintenance	Monte Watler
Show Schedule	Carol Ann Bonner
Staging	Jonathan Ertelt

Additional Convention Information

Loews Vanderbilt Plaza is conveniently located at the corner of West End and 21st Avenue South, a few blocks from downtown, fewer from Music Row, and around the corner from restaurants and music venues. There is a shuttle to the hotel from Nashville International Airport. Nashville is at the intersection of Interstates 24, 40, and 65. Travel directions will be sent with your registration confirmation.

Hotel reservations must be received by May 28, 1999, to assure room availability.

Register for convention by April 1, 1999, to gain early admittance to the plant sales. Convention registration must be received by May 28, 1999, in order to avoid an additional $25.00 late fee.

Educational and Commercial Exhibitors should contact Michael Riley, 101 W. 104th St., New York, NY 10025 (phone: 212-666-2395) email <riley2362@aol.com> for space availability.

To donate items to the auction to benefit the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund, contact Doris Carson, 1702 Joplin Ave., Joplin, MO 64804-0649 (phone: 417-623-5804).

To sponsor an award for the Flower Show, contact Colleen Turley, 6118 Windsor Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407-5058 (phone: 540-891-1145) email <awards@aggs.org>.

There shall be a minimum of 50 plants a vendor may bring to sell at the convention plant sales. Rhizomes, tubers, cuttings, and stolons in labeled plastic bags are welcomed. Potted plants for sale should be well rooted. Contact Richard Holder, 1307 Porter Road, Nashville, TN 37216 (phone: 615-262-2659) for space availability.

Judges Training School

The Training School for the 1999 Convention will be held on Wednesday, June 30. The sessions for beginning and advanced AGGS judges will be held from 8:30 to 11:00 a.m. and from 12:30 to 2:00 p.m. The examination will be given from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Members who are primarily interested in exhibiting, rather than becoming a judge, may register for the school. Taking the examination is optional unless accreditation is desired.

The registration fee is $10.00, which includes a new or renewal subscription to *Appraisal*, the newsletter of the Judges Interest Group. Only one subscription ($5.00) for *Appraisal* is needed for a single address. Checks should be made out to AGGS and sent to Ben Paternoster, Chairman of Shows and Judging, 14 Coptor Court, Huntington, NY 11743-2335 by June 9. Planning for a productive school is enhanced by compliance with this deadline.

There will be a meeting for the Judges Interest Group on Wednesday, June 30, from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. Current AGGS judges or those interested in becoming judges are welcome to attend this meeting. For the judges who participate in the flower show judging, there will be a critique by Frances Batcheller on Saturday, July 3, from 7:00 to 8:00 a.m.

Anyone who is interested in an assignment as a judge or clerk should write to Lee Linett, Judges Chairman, 12314 Sweetbriar Pl., Waldorf, MD 20602, for consideration.

American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society, Inc.

43rd Annual Convention — 1999

Room Reservation Form

Mail to: **Loews Vanderbilt Plaza Hotel**
2100 West End Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203

Phone: **1-800-336-3335 or 1-615-320-1700.** To obtain the special group rate, tell them you will be attending the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society Convention. In order to guarantee reservations, please enclose a check for the amount of the first night's room and tax, or fill out the credit card information listed below.*

Name(s) _____

Address _____

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Arrival Date _____ Time _____

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and Names _____

Check-in Time: 3:00 p.m. Rates: $85.00 Single, Double, Triple or Quad

Check-out Time: 12:00 Noon

The above rooms are subject to all applicable taxes. Reservations must be received by May 28, 1999.

Circle One: American Express Diner's Club Master Card
Discover Visa Carte Blanche

Card # _____ Expiration Date_____

Signature _____

My check for one night deposit is enclosed $ _____

☐ Non-Smoking Room ☐ Smoking Room

*Cancellation of guaranteed room reservations must be received 48 hours prior to arrival in order to avoid a charge equal to one night's room and tax.

Self-parking at the hotel is $7.00 per day. Valet parking is $10.00 per day.

Flower Show Awards

Colleen Turley <awards@aggs.org>
6118 Windsor Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22407-5058

The Flower Show at Convention has always been filled with excitement as the participants are recognized for their high quality plants and exhibits. Both the winning exhibitors and the society as a whole appreciate the generosity of the individual members, commercial members, chapters, and friends-at-large who donate these awards. I am soliciting donations for the 1999 Convention to be held in Nashville, Tennessee, in July. Any member or chapter who cares to participate may contact me at the address above. Checks or Money Orders should be made payable to AGGS.

As in the past, preference is for unspecified awards. This allows for fair distribution to all deserving entries. Special requests will be determined on a first-come, first-served basis. If there are no eligible entries, or the category's award has already been filled, the award may be transferred to another class or section. Should there be fewer eligible entries than awards, the award donation shall be used to sponsor a color picture in THE GLOXINIAN of the "Best Gesneriad in Show". Acknowledgement of all award donations will be printed in THE GLOXINIAN.

Thank you for your consideration and generosity!

Convention Auctions

Doris Carson, Endowment Fund Chair
1702 Joplin Ave., Joplin, MO 64804-0649

The 14th Gesneriad Auctions, live and silent, for the benefit of the Frances Batcheller Endowment Fund will take place during the Nashville Convention, July 2-3, 1999.

Contribute plants for our rare plant auction, artwork, crafts, gift certificates, books… especially with gesneriad contents. Use your imagination! All donations will be most welcome, and receipts will be given upon request. If you are unable to attend the convention or cannot carry your auction items with you, mail or ship them to Carol Ann Bonner, 3705 Tibbs Drive, Nashville, TN 37211.

And then, remember, when packing up for the convention trip, bring your checkbook and reserve extra space for all the terrific items that you will not be able to pass up at the live and silent auctions. *First donate—then bid!*

The Elvin McDonald Research Fund

Dr. Miriam Denham <denham@spot.Colorado.edu>
10353 N. 65th Street, Longmont, CO 80503-9018

The Elvin McDonald Research Fund is one of several funds created by the American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society to satisfy its needs and goals. The Research Fund was named to honor Elvin McDonald who founded the Society in 1951 when he was 14 years old. Subsequently, the Society has nurtured other young people who have exhibited an extraordinary interest in and understanding of plants, most notably Dr. Peter Shalit, now a Seattle medical doctor, and James Watson, now editor of *Orchids*, The Magazine of the American Orchid Society.

The Elvin McDonald Research Fund was created to further the aims of AGGS and further the understanding and the interests of our plants. The purposes of AGGS are: "...to afford a convenient and beneficial association of persons interested in gloxinias and other gesneriads; to stimulate a widespread interest in, and gather and publish reliable information about the identification, correct nomenclature, culture and propagation of gloxinias and other gesneriads; and to encourage the origination and introduction of new cultivars."

Most previous grants have been to persons who have had grants from other sources or have been funding their own research. AGGS funds have enabled these people to extend their projects, for example:

- A group making a botanical inventory in Colombia were enabled to extend their research collections to include some Gesneriaceae.
- Some assistance was given to permit the collection of information about gesneriad seed morphology.
- Funding for photographic purposes permitted many more photographs to be made of plants in their native habitats.
- Funding has been added to support the research by graduate students and others into an understanding of the gesneriads and their relationships to one another. This should lead to a more stable situation with respect to name changes.
- While funding is not normally made for equipment (assuming equipment is already available to the researcher), an exception was made to fund a herbarium case to preserve collections of gesneriads made in the field.
- More recently, funding was made to protect and recover species and new hybrids of gesneriads damaged by the collapse of a lath house due to an unusual heavy snowfall.
- Persons attending the AGGS 1998 Convention at Chicago were able to hear Dr. Ethan Russo's talk on his ethnobotanical research looking for active compounds from tropical plants for the treatment of headaches. The AGGS grant permitted him to add gesneriads to his research.

A donation made toward ethnobotanical research made it possible to add to a renewed grant to Dr. Russo to continue his research. Reports on the outcomes of these grants have been and will continue to be published in the

Society's quarterly journal, THE GLOXINIAN. Recent concern about the loss of diversity engendered by the cutting and burning of tropical forests has accelerated a desire to gather information about these plants before they are lost. Only a few of the some 120 gesneriads reported to be used by indigenous natives for about 50 different conditions have been investigated for active substances.

The Elvin McDonald Research Fund is supported by the Society, as finances permit, and occasionally by memorial contributions and by speakers' fees turned back to the Society for the Elvin McDonald Research Fund. The Bylaws permit dues from individuals or organizations to join as Research Members in the amount of $40.00 (mail in the U.S.) or $45.00 (mail outside the U.S.). Additionally, chapters and individuals are encouraged to make contributions at any time to the Research Fund. Occasionally, contributions are made in honor of someone.

The Research Committee believes it is a timely and worthwhile goal to build a larger Research Fund to facilitate writing more grant proposals to fund the work of scientists who share the Society's passion for and understanding of the gesneriad family—a large and complex grouping of related plants whose beauties are obvious but whose practical applications have hardly begun to be explored.

Guidelines for proposals are available, by e-mail <GesGard@aol.com> or "snail-mail" at the address noted above or phone 303-651-7395. The Committee welcomes all proposals and contributions.

Dr. Miriam Denham, Chair
Dr. Carl Clayberg
Dr. Laurence E. Skog
Dr. Christian Feuillet
Dr. Nancy Dengler

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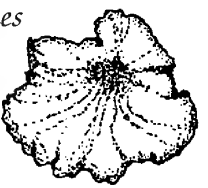

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Sample magazine $3.50, *Directory of Greenhouse Manufacturers* $2.50

Hobby Greenhouse Association (non-profit)
8 Glen Terrace, Bedford, MA 01730-2048

Gesneriads, The Internet and You

David Turley <dturley@pobox.com>
6118 Windsor Dr., Fredericksburg, VA 22407

It seems like I was just writing about the fun of the Chicago convention and it's already time to start planning for the 1999 AGGS Convention in Nashville! Elsewhere in this issue you will find details on this gathering of gesneriad enthusiasts from around the world. All this information can also be found on the AGGS web site. Although the web-based information is still in the planning stages as I write this (in October), we are planning on having links to information about Nashville tourist attractions to aide you in planning your visit. Be sure to check it out.

The online membership application has proven to be very popular. This service is now implemented via a secure server. Without boring you with the gory details, this means simply that all the communications that occur between your computer and the AGGS web site are encrypted and not susceptible to prying eyes. AGGS respects your privacy and is delighted to offer this improved service. By the way, did I mention that this service is not limited to new members? That's right, you can renew your membership online as well. So, save time and postage and renew online. Besides memberships, you may also make donations and purchase AGGS T-shirts and lapel pins through our secure server as well. Work is also underway that will allow you to purchase AGGS publications via the web site.

The "Gesneriad Message Corner" on the web site continues to be very popular. For those of you without Internet access, some of the posts are reprinted here.

Elizabeth Williams asked for help identifying a new plant:

"Can anyone give me any information about *Gesneria lindeniana*? I received it in an order of mixed gesneriads and can't find anything about this species. It is rooting well and sending up many new little shoots. Seems to be a little leggy, like a kohleria. Will it need to dry out or be kept moist at all times? More or less light than usual?"

Clay Anderson replies:

"This sounds like it might be a mislabelling of *Gloxinia lindeniana.* Does it have two-tone leaves with a brown edge and silvery-green center?"

To which **Elizabeth** replied:

"Bingo!! Clay, thanks. This is what it must be."

John Boggan added more information:

"I agree with Clay, your plant is probably *Gloxinia lindeniana.* It used to be classified as *Kohleria lindeniana.*

"Grow it like any kohleria: bright light, a good loose soil mix, keep it evenly moist and fertilize regularly. If it seems leggy, give it a bit more light. It can be a shy bloomer, but the foliage alone makes it worth growing. Begin to cut back on water and fertilizer after the plant blooms. It will form numerous long stringy rhizomes with more compact scaly rhizomes at the tips. This species has always had a dormant period for me, and the rhizomes can be left right in the pot, barely moist, until they show new growth in the spring."

Charles Lawn had this query:

"Is there any information regarding the hybridizing of achimenes, to produce a yellow flower? Our season is just commencing "Down Under" and any information would be appreciated."

Judy Becker responded:

"Three hybrids I've grown are yellow(ish). 'Yellow Beauty', a Lyndon Lyon hybrid ('Little Beauty' × *flava*, backcrossed) is the best color though plant form is a bit open. 'Sunburst' parentage, hybridizer unknown, has small flowers, pale yellow though they open purplish. 'Clouded Yellow' parentage, hybridizer unknown, has somewhat open growth habit. Only yellow species I know of is *flava* with small flowers, long trailing stems."

AGGS President **Jon Dixon** also contributed:

"×*Niphimenes* 'Lemonade' and ×*Achimenantha* 'Honey Gold' are also yellow. Yellow hybrids can be achieved by crossing onto white flowered varieties like *Niphaea* or *Achimenes glabrata*."

Achimenes glabrata grown by Maryjane Evans; photo by John Evans

Gordon Barringham wondered about pH:

"Do most sinningias grow best when the ph of the material they are grown in is in some specific range?"

Al Wojcik offered his experience:

"Unless you live in an area with well water, or hard, alkaline water, there's no need to fuss with pH for sinningias."

John Boggan offered his experiences as well:

"Al, the best mini sinningias I ever grew were when I lived in a house with well water. The water smelled awful, like rotten eggs, but all my plants did extremely well. But I suspect the hard Washington, DC tap water is one reason why I've had less luck with the mini sinningias here."

Elizabeth Williams asked about two popular hybrids:

"I planted *S.* 'Apricot Bouquet' from selfed seed in March—it hasn't bloomed this summer. It has flourished in mostly full sun outside, but no flowers. Could it be sterile or is it past time for it to bloom? Tubers have formed. *S.* 'Bewitched' is a medium-height hybrid (Shalit) just now starting to bud. Can I expect it to go dormant after blooming?"

Ron Myhr shared this:

"I have grown seedlings of 'Apricot Bouquet', and have bloomed several of them. They are moderately variable, but tend to look quite a bit like AB. Variation seems to be mainly in foliage and habit, with flowers mostly being quite similar to the parent.

"In my experience, the seedlings will grow nicely through one growing season, in mainly full sun, with about 70% blooming the first year. Following winter dormancy (I lift the tubers after the first mild frost, and store indoors in a cool place), I plant in full sun inside at the first sign of new growth. As soon as frosts are over outside, I plant outside in tubs. They'll all bloom this second year."

Al Wojcik joined in:

"My 'Bewitched' seldom goes dormant. The top of the now-exposed (and quite sizable tuber) is studded with new little sprouts. Once the main stems stop blooming, check for these little sprouts and, if present, feel free to remove the old stems. New ones will quickly start growing. If you want a whole bunch of new starts, keep pulling off these sprouts as more continue to grow."

John Boggan also offered important advice:

"Elizabeth, please be aware that you are not planting 'Apricot Bouquet' if it is selfed seed! What you will get from these seedlings is a variety of plants, most of them somewhat similar to 'Apricot Bouquet' but this name should not be applied to them, since this cultivar does not come true from seed.

"*S.* 'Apricot Bouquet' is a fairly large grower, as are its parent species. Give it time; some of the seedlings will most likely bloom on their second year of growth, once the tubers are a bit bigger."

Elizabeth Williams had a question about her dalbergaria:

"Any suggestions on propagation of dalbergaria? The one I have has a thick woody stem with bifurcated main stalks (spanning more than 2 feet). I noticed a shoot coming off the main stem when I repotted and accidentally broke the shoot off. I have put it into a small pot (1:1:1 mix) in a terrarium with mini-sinns, but it seems to be drooping (it's about 4 inches tall). I had tried rooting from a leaf about 4 months ago, and the leaf seems to have rooted securely but that's all. This is a beautiful plant, with fuzzy red hairs all over."

Al Wojcik shared more of his extensive experience:

"You might try removing a few more of the lower leaves. There's apparently too much leaf surface for the stem to handle. They root fairly easily from stem cuttings. When propping from leaves, it sometimes take awhile longer for the rooting leaf to send up a stem. With stem cuttings, new shoots can arise from any of the basal points. With leaves, those are not present."

Jonathan Ertelt has also grown this plant:

"Actually, a two foot span for *D. polyantha* could still be considered pretty small—it can get to be quite a monster, but it is a handsome plant. Trimming off 1/2 to 2/3 of all but the newest two or three leaves will help it to lose less moisture while it is rooting. I would also remove all but four or five leaves anyway, similar to what Al suggested. You may also want to gradually cut back the remaining stem, either immediately back to where you would like the new growth to come from, or gradually if you want to propagate more of the emerging dormant buds along the stem.

"Just out of curiosity, do you know the origins for your plant? That species is available, although not very common, and it is also one that I distributed from Cheekwood when I was there and there was an impressive gesneriad collection, including lots of material collected from Panama."

John Wigglesworth wanted information on forcing bloom:

"I have a *Gloxinia latifolia* bought two years ago in flower, early July. With me it refused to flower until September, but continued until Christmas. I would very much like to bring forward its flowering—at the moment buds are forming. Can one subject these plants to "short day" treatment?—like chrysanths or poinsettias."

John Boggan advised:

"This plant, formerly *Seemannia latifolia*, is now known as *Gloxinia sylvatica*. Short days are more likely to promote rhizome production and dormancy. If you want to speed things up, I would suggest longer days (16 hours) and warm temperatures. Don't let it dry out, and fertilize regularly while it's actively growing and blooming. But inducing dormancy early (by cutting back on watering) may accomplish the same thing, as the rhizomes may break dormancy earlier next year, and thus produce flowers earlier.

"*Gloxinia sylvatica* is one of the parents of *Gloxinia* 'Chic' and plants are fairly similar."

Al Wojcik added:

"I don't think the short-day treatment will work too well with rhizomatous gesneriads. Only way I can think of to move up the blooming period is to get them started re-growing earlier in the season. Rhizomes started in February or March should be starting to bloom by July. Remember that they typically need more light to grow and bloom well. Outdoors, they do especially well."

Charles Newton needed help finding a book titled *Streptocarpus* by Rex and Gareth Dibley:

"Does anyone know where I can buy this book—reasonably. Also, I am looking for a book on *Episcia.* Hey, how about an inexpensive book that includes both? Now that would be g-o-o-d!"

Gloxinia 'Chic'; photo from the collection of Dr. M. H. Stone

Soili Damm provided useful information:

"The address of the Home Page of Dibley's Nurseries in North Wales, UK is as follows: http://www.3wa.co.uk/dibleys so I suggest you send them an e-mail (I think you will find the e-mail address on the Home Page) and ask them if they can send you the book. But it should be possible to get that book via any American bookshop, too."

As you can see, the AGGS "Gesneriad Message Corner" is a great way to get quick answers to your gesneriad-related questions.

I'd like to remind everyone once again to submit your meeting, and show and sale information to the AGGS web site. It's free and does bring results. The Tennessee chapter did, and Carol Ann Bonner received this note:

"Dear Carol Ann, I live here in Nashville, and have just gotten a greenhouse and would like to learn more about growing gloxinias. I'm a real novice, I don't even know where to buy any plants except at a florist. I was on the internet and saw where there is a show at Cheekwood the 17th and 18th."

One more converted grower!

Remember, the AGGS web site is at <http://www.aggs.org>. You can write me at:

<webmaster@aggs.org>.

What Works? / What Works!

Carol Ann Bonner and Richard Holder
Nashville, Tennessee

Gesneriad growers are scattered across the world in all but the most severe climates (although depending on one's perspective, there are gesneriad growers there, too). Because we grow under such different conditions of humidity, temperature, and, for plants not grown under lights, day length and light intensity, cultural methods that work in one geographic location don't necessarily work in another, and methods that work for one person may not be optimal in another's hands. This is the first in a series of articles exploring cultural practices that work for different individuals under sometimes highly divergent climates.

The authors live in Nashville, Tennessee, USA, where we have hot summers with typical daytime temperatures in the high 80's to low 90's°F / 30-36°C, and high humidity, although in late summer we often have very little rain. Night-time temperatures usually drop about 20°F / 10°C. Winters are generally rather cold with many days in which the temperature never rises above freezing; also, the sky is often overcast during the winter months. We have long and pleasant springs and autumns.

We each grow our plants both in greenhouses and under lights, and each of us puts a lot of plants outside in the summer, Richard in his back yard and I on a deck under the shade of a large tulip poplar. We exchange plants and cuttings and, perhaps most importantly, what we learn in our quest to better grow gesneriads.

On two trips to Ecuador with the Gesneriad Research Foundation, I observed that most of the gesneriads grew in a spongy layer of moss and organic debris that covers trees and rocks and even road cuts; there was nothing that resembled the soilless mix in which I had been trying to grow my plants. Also, the cloud forest was almost perpetually moist and cool. Perhaps therein lay clues to why my epiphytic gesneriads fell somewhat short of attractive and sometimes somewhat short of alive. With materials available to me in Tennessee, I tried to replicate the medium I had sunk in up to my ankles (and unceremoniously slipped flat on my butt in) while botanizing in the southern Andes of Ecuador. I saturated a bag of long-fibered sphagnum moss (not sphagnum peat which has a much finer texture and very different properties) with hot water, let it cool, then squeezed out as much water as I could. Next, I dredged the moss in a commercial version of the familiar Cornell mix (two parts sphagnum peat, one part vermiculite, one part perlite) with extra perlite and a handful of horticultural lime added. This "dirty moss" was my potting medium.

Some excellent growers recommend keeping epiphytic gesneriads underpotted, and this has worked for me with some plants, notably codonanthes and small-leafed species and hybrids of columneas. But large-leafed nematanthus plants with big, dangling flowers and the majestic dalbergarias simply were not thriving in my care. Throwing any consideration of the scientific method out the window, I potted several of my more miserable-looking epiphytes in the new mix in 8" (~20cm) hanging baskets. If I remember correctly, I used 8" baskets because I was out of 6". So they are way over potted, they are sitting in sphagnum moss that looks like it's been trampled

on the greenhouse floor for a month, and they look... terrific! They're growing, flowering, and much more tolerant of any inconsistency in watering. My theory is that the large, airy mass of fiber around the roots keeps them cool and moist which are the same conditions they experience in their cloud forest home. I was so impressed with the results that I now include varying proportions of long-fibered sphagnum in mixes for all my gesneriads; less for terrestrial plants, more for epiphytes, and nearly 100% for the most finicky.

This mix in conjunction with clay pots has also allowed me to successfully grow streptocarpus for the first time. Previously, they had survived the winter only to fade away during our hot summers. Many growers recommend allowing streps to dry somewhat in between waterings; using this very open mix in clay pots and keeping it moist means the roots stay even cooler than they would in plastic due to the constant evaporation through the porous clay, and yet the roots still have access to plenty of air. Streps and chiritas seem to appreciate this treatment.

Meanwhile, on the other side of town, Richard applied my moss-method to his more troublesome nematanthus hybrids and found it worked equally well for him. For his contribution to this tale, however, he didn't have to travel thousands of miles; he just read THE GLOXINIAN.

Richard is especially fond of *Sinningia* species and hybrids, and he has created many hybrids of his own. From articles in TG, he noticed that species are often found growing in rock fissures with distorted tubers bulging from the crevice; yet, traditionally, cultural articles instructed growers to plant tubers with the top at soil level. That's not the way nature does it, Richard thought, and nature's been growing these plants successfully a bit longer than any human. Keeping the scientific method securely indoors, Richard repotted some sinningia tubers almost completely on top of the soil with the majority of the tuber exposed and attractively set off by a thin mulch of pea gravel; matching tubers he left planted in the more traditional way. He then continued to grow them as he usually does under almost full sun in the center of his backyard, with one additional change he applied to all his plants.

Because he also sells plants for a living, Richard wants them to grow as fast as possible, so he has usually fertilized with 20-20-20, switching to a very high phosphorous bloom booster formula in preparation for our local fall show. But now he was trying to grow a better tuber, so he began feeding all of his gesneriads, including the experimental plants and their controls, an African violet special with slightly higher phosphorous for strong root and stem development.

What were his results? Much more compact plants that bloomed at half the height of their largely subterranean counterparts, and, consequently, much improved sales of these more attractive specimens. *Sinningia sellovii* is in bud at a foot high rather than two feet; his *S. sceptrum* and *S. tubiflora* hybrids equally compact. Additionally, with the tubers raised and complemented by the gravel (don't use those readily available marble chips—too much lime), sinningias become, in the parlance of cactus and succulent growers, caudiciforms; and they attract buyers like wilted streps attract mealy bugs. I was so impressed by his results that I went home and began repotting all my tuberous plants. When I did, I realized that a plant of *S. macrorrhiza* that had bloomed wonderfully for me and had spectacular foliage had a largely exposed tuber due to the rain having washed away a considerable amount of the potting mix.

Seeing gesneriads growing in their natural habitat taught me a lot about the conditions they require to thrive, but if travel to distant places doesn't suit your taste or your budget, careful reading of THE GLOXINIAN may suffice. Whether these cultural practices will be beneficial in your growing conditions, I cannot guarantee. For us, it's what works!

Collections of *Sinningia macropoda* growing with tubers exposed in their pots in the greenhouse of Mauro Peixoto in Sao Paulo, Brazil

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Heirloom Violets
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Botanical Review Report #18

John Boggan <boggan.john@nmnh.si.edu>
Dept. of Botany, NHB 166, Smithsonian Institution
Washington, DC 20670

Fang Ding, Qin De-hai, and Lu Xiao-hong. 1994. New plants of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi of China (cont. I). *Acta Phytotaxomica Sinica* 32: 563-570.

Five new species from Guangxi province are described: *Oreocharis heterandra, Didymostigma leiophyllum, Chirita macrodonta, Chirita macrorhiza,* and *Chirita liujiangensis.* In Chinese with Latin descriptions. Illustrated.

Fang Ding, Qin De-hai, Rao Wei-yuan, and Zeng Ling. 1995. New plants of Gesneriaceae from Guangxi and Guizhou of China (cont. II). *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 33: 602-607.

Four new species of *Paraboea* from Guangxi province are described: *P. clavisepala, P. nutans, P. peltifolia,* and *P. tribracteata.* In Chinese with Latin descriptions. Illustrated.

Hilliard, O.M. and B.L. Burtt. 1995. Old World Gesneriaceae. IV. Notes on *Didymocarpus* and *Lysionotus. Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 52: 215-224.

In preparation for floristic treatments for Bhutan and Southeast Asia, several transfers, synonymies, and new species are published. *Didymocarpus rodgeri* (incl. var. *siamensis*) is reduced to a synonym of *D. aureoglandulosus* (southeast India, Burma and Thailand); *D. subalternans* var. *curvicapsa* (Nepal and Sikkim) is raised to specific rank as *D. curvicapsa*, and a new species, *D. triplotrichus* (Sikkim and Darjeeling district, India), is described. *Lysionotus himalayensis* is redetermined and reduced to synonymy under *L. serratus*; as a result *L. atropurpureus*, which name it had recently superseded, is reinstated. *Aeschynanthus kingii* and *A. levipes* are both transferred to *Lysionotus,* while *L. wardii* and *L. gracilipes* are reduced to synonymy under *L. pubescens*. Notes and new records are provided for *L. confertus* and *L. serratus* var. *pterocaulis.* Illustrated.

Kiew, R. 1995. *Didymocarpus miniatus* (Gesneriaceae), a new species from peninsular Malaysia. Novon 5: 40-41.

Didymocarpus miniatus, a new species in section *Heteroboea,* is described from Bukit Bauk in Trangganu. The plant is a woody-stemmed herb to 1 m tall with vermilion flowers. The species has an extremely local distribution and grows on slopes above small swampy areas.

Kiew, R. 1995. A new species and section of *Didymocarpus* (Gesneriaceae) from Belum and Temengor, Hulu Perak, Peninsular Malaysia. *Malayan Nature Journal* 48: 201-207.

Didymocarpus dawnii is described from mountains in Perak. This beautiful new species with violet flowers was first discovered by John Dawn in 1993

in his explorations during the Malaysian Nature Society's Heritage and Scientific Expedition to Belum. It is closely allied to *D. calcareus, D. castaneifolius, D. tahanicus* and *D. venustus*, a group of species for which a new section, *Venustus,* is erected. *Didymocarpus pubiflorus* is reduced to synonymy under *D. venustus*.

Mendum, M. 1995. *Aeschynanthus oxychlamys* Mendum, nom. nov. (Gesneriaceae). *Edinburgh Journal of Botany* 52: 362-363.

The genus *Oxychlamys* was synonymized under *Aeschynanthus* by P. van Royen in 1983, but the transfer of the sole species, *O. pullei*, from New Guinea, as *Aeschynanthus pullei* was illegitimate because another species was described as *A. pullei* in 1926. The species is therefore given a new name, *Aeschynanthus oxychlamys.*

Pan Kai-yu and Liu Zhen-yu. 1995. A new species of *Isometrum* Craib. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 33: 100-102.

Isometrum nanchuanicum, from Sichuan province in China, is described. The plant is a small perennial stemless herb with purple-brown flowers. In Chinese with Latin description. Illustrated.

Qian Yi-yong. 1996. A new species of *Chirita* (Gesneriaceae) from Yunnan, China. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 34: 216-218.

Chirita puerensis, a relative of *C. anachoreta,* is described from Yunnan province. The plant is an annual herb with white flowers. In Chinese with Latin description. Illustrated.

Turner, I.M. 1995. Gesneriaceae, in: A catalogue of the vascular plants of Malaya. *Gardens Bulletin of Singapore* 47(1): 243-256.

Part of a larger work listing all the vascular plants known from Malaya (the Malaysian portion of the Malay Peninsula) with brief descriptions and ecological and distribution data for each. Malaya is very rich in Gesneriaceae, represented by 20 genera and 170 species. *Didymocarpus* is by far the largest genus, with 88 species; other genera, with their respective number of species, are: *Aeschynanthus* (17), *Agalmyla* (1), *Boea* (1), *Boeica* (2), *Chirita* (8), *Cyrtandra* (13), *Didissandra* (16), *Epithema* (2), *Loxocarpus* (8), *Loxonia* (1), *Micraeschynanthus* (1), *Monophyllaea* (5), *Orchadocarpa* (1), *Ornithoboea* (1), *Paraboea* (20), *Rhynchoglossum* (1), *Rhynchotechum* (1), *Stauranthera* (2), and *Trisepalum* (1).

Wang Yin-zheng. 1995. Two new species of *Whytockia* (Gesneriaceae) from Yunnan. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 33: 297-301.

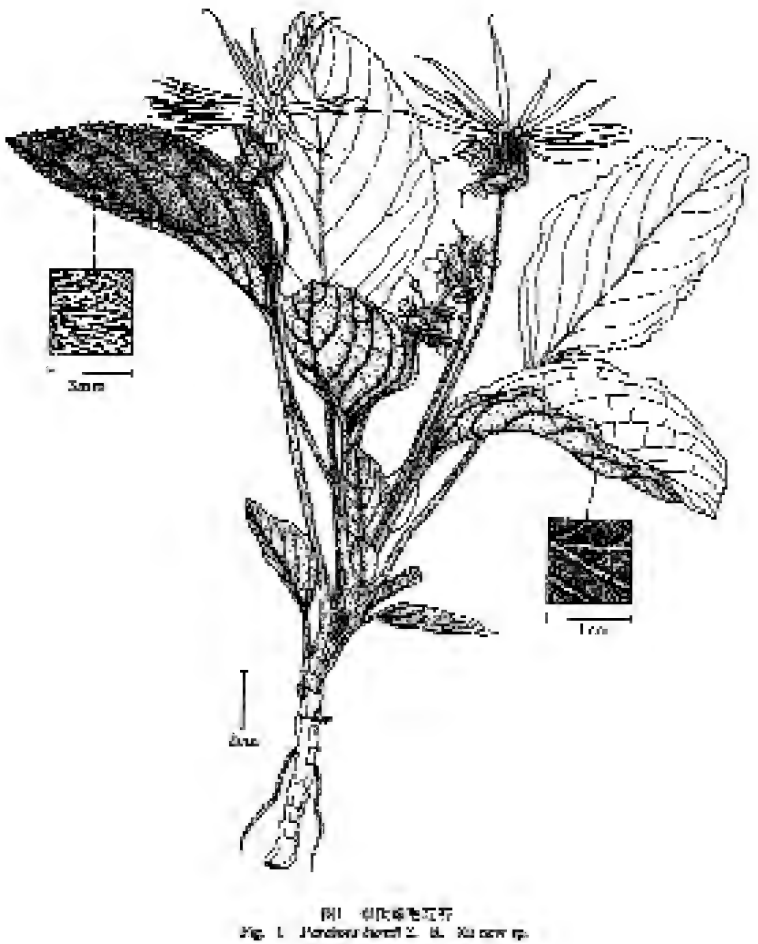
Whytockia purpurascens and *W. hekouensis* are described from Yunnan province, China. In Chinese with Latin descriptions. Illustrated.

Wei Yigang and Wen Hequn. 1995. Two new species from Guangxi. Guihaia 15(3): 216-219.

Two new species, including one gesneriad, are described from Guangxi province, China. *Hemiboea magnibracteata* is a perennial herb with erect stems to 60 cm tall and white flowers. In Chinese with Latin descriptions. Illustrated.

Xu Zhaoran. 1994. A new species of *Paraboea* Ridley from Thailand. *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica* 32: 359-361.

Paraboea burttii is described from Thailand. The plant is a perennial herb with bluish flowers and is named in honor of B.L. Burtt. In Chinese with Latin description. Illustrated.



Paraboea burtii illustration from *Acta Phytotaxonomica Sinica*

Plants and People

Nellie Sleeth
2913 North Monroe, Tacoma, WA 98407

This may seem a strange subject for a horticultural publication, but one I think all of us have found to be true—plant people make wonderful friends. In over forty years of being involved with gesneriad growers, first in a local African violet club, then with a larger group of clubs in the Northwest, and finally learning about the rest of the gesneriad family through our Puget Sound Chapter and serving as Treasurer of AGGS, I learned a lot more than just how to grow plants.

What is it about this hobby that makes us want to share cuttings, growing techniques, tales of woe about mysterious bugs or diseases that appear from nowhere, or sometimes a triumphant shout of victory about finally discovering how to succeed with a newly acquired species given to us by a friend at the last convention?

'98 Conventioneers discussing gesneriads (what else?) during one of the tours

But I feel the best thing going for us is that as long as we share a common interest, everyone is accepted as equal. There is no distinction between male or female, young or old, white or black or in between, no rich or poor, straight or gay—we are all welcome and quickly find friends, even at a first meeting. The small talk doesn't consist of "Where do you work?" or "Where did you go to school?" or "Where do you go to church?" or "What country club do you belong to?" No, the questions are "What do you grow?" or "Do you grow with natural light or under lights?" or "What kind of fertilizer do you use?"

After over forty years of growing altogether too many plants, and letting it become an obsession rather than a hobby, I have finally found that spending most of my time watering, repotting and scrubbing pots has lost most of its charm. But would I give up the wonderful people I have met along the way? Not on your life!

Wahroonga

Martin Kunhardt, Wahroonga
Box 144, Merrivale 3291, Natal, Republic of South Africa

As I sit here and look up from the computer, I can see the Cyprus trees that offer the vegetable garden some protection from the prevailing westerly winds, waving their heads and limbs before the bitter-cold wind that sprung up last night. When I say that the winds are cold, I'm referring to the change between what I felt when I returned from the Northern hemisphere summer on Tuesday, August 18th, to the winter here in Africa. Temperatures have been warm to hot here at Wahroonga, despite it being mid-winter.

That is at least until last night when the five-month drought was broken by solid rain all night accompanied by thunder and lightning. Minimum temperatures have gone from 13°C yesterday, down to a chilled 2°C today! Last Sunday it was 30°C while today it hasn't reached double figures. All morning it has been snowing gently and the wind has been blowing hard, making outside work unpleasant and uncomfortable. This rain will benefit the wildflowers and populations of streptocarpus both in the wild and those in the shadehouse here. The air will have a greater humidity and the soil will be softened for the roots to absorb the nutrients they need to flower and produce seed.

Despite the winter being the mildest that we can remember here at Wahroonga, the streps all seem to be semi-dormant as they all are during the dry winters. Only the winter-flowering *Streptocarpus kentaniensis, S. polyanthus,* and *S. modestus* have flowers and show signs of active growth.

Streptocarpus modestus, grown and photographed by Martin Kunhardt

Streptocarpus leaf in situ showing abscission lines

There are still a few flowers on the *S. fasciatus* but, in general, all the species have yellow leaves and prominent abscission lines that show how much the plants re-absorbed as they retreated from the shorter daylength and cooler, dry weather.

These hostile temperature changes obviously affect the streps, but it is hard to say how this influences their growth, if at all. Having always grown my streps without the luxuries of control mechanisms such as subsidiary lighting and regulated temperatures, I have relied on the natural rhythms that influence the plants to break dormancy and initiate flowering. In Germany, Denmark and Sweden where I have seen streps grown, I must tell you that they bear little resemblance to their wild cousins. Even where species have been grown, the plants have been modified to suit the market.

The one example I have is the *S. wendlandii* that has its origins in the tropical coastal forests of northern Zululand. The specimens I saw had been "forced" and had their large single leaves trimmed with serrated scissors so they all had the same shape and size. It is such a pity that people who see these plants believe that this is what they look like in the wild! Far from it! Colonies of these plants that my father and I saw have ragged leaves that have been attacked by insects or bear the dessicated tips resulting from being dry during the winter months. When I have grown this species in the shade-houses at Wahroonga, the leaves have grown to more than 20" in length and 15" wide. The natural growth habits of these streps is easily seen when, during the cold and dry winter months, the young plants start to enter a "dormant

stage". The roots cannot absorb water and nutrients so the plant uses up what it has in the leaves to stay alive. At first, an abscission line appears near the end of the leaf and this progresses further towards the crown of the plant as the winter chill increases. Because there are no nutrients in the leaf beyond the abscission line, the tips start to wither and die. Anyone seeing a plant of *S. wendlandii* in winter couldn't imagine it as a potplant. As for the mature plants that have flowered and set seed, the leaves look very "weathered" and old. All the plants' reserves have gone into flowering and setting seed so mildews attack the leaves and flower stems and generally the plants look terrible. Mind you, nearly all the streps at Wahroonga look terrible during the winter!

On a positive note, the shadehouses are 100% completely rebuilt, and the plants on the asbestos tables are enjoying the shelter and protection from the sometimes bitter-cold winds that blow off the Drakensberg mountains. These were snow-covered last week, and being outdoors was a challenge! I'm pleased to say that all the streps came through the cold weather just fine and will be growing very soon as the daylength increases. The species that I have planted outdoors had almost disappeared during winter, but after nearly 1" of rain (17mls) the other day, the plants have awakened and are growing. In the dry moss that covers the rocks where the streps are, numerous tiny plants are evidence that despite being without any moisture for nearly five months, seeds that germinated during the late summer have survived to swell the size of the "manmade" colony.

The amazing recuperative powers of streps have ensured that these "delicate" plants have successfully established themselves as far north as the Ethiopian highlands and down the East coast of the African continent nearly as far as Capetown (nearly 5,000 klms). It is worrrying that despite the plants' ability to survive what we perceive as hostile environments, habitat destruction and Man's careless use of herbicides have pushed many of the lesser-known species to the edge of extinction. Even in some of the areas where new species have only been "discovered" recently, the scramble for land and the lack of "land management" has threatened whole ecosystems with changes that will be disastrous to habitat-specific plants... *Streptocarpus* being one such plant. The conditions at Wahroonga are primitive at best, but the collection and distribution of the many *Streptocarpus* species have ensured that even endangered plants have a chance, albeit a small one, of being returned to their original habitats. Having seen how the streps that were planted outdoors and virtually forgotten manage to survive adverse conditions, I am optimistic that threatened species will cling to their disappearing habitats long into the future.

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Future GRF Gesneriad Study Trips

Dr. Hans Wiehler, Gesneriad Research Foundation
1873 Oak Street, Sarasota, FL 34236-7114

This is just to let you know that the GRF has more plans for gesneriad trips in the new millennium. We are sorry to say that the planned trip to South Africa and Madagascar has been cancelled for 1999 due to lack of interest at this time, but we will try again in later years. Our planned trips are now as follows:

1999 — Southern Brazil — Two Weeks from April 15–29

Since our first trip to sinningia-land in October of 1991 was so successful and well-liked, we offer instead of the Madagascar trip another expedition to Brazil. This time to the southern states of Parana and Curitiba, full of sinningias and some nematanthus. Gesneriad expert Mauro Peixoto will be our native guide again, and we will visit his gesneriad greenhouses at the end of the trip. The GRF will need at least 12-15 trip participants. Are there enough Sinningia lovers around? This will be a comparatively easy study and collecting trip, with a very comfortable bus (same Brazilian travel agency as last time) and pleasant hotels. The scenery will be exceptional. The cost is $3,000 which includes airfare from Miami to Sao Paulo and return, inland transportation, meals and hotels. Reservation deposit of $50 is due by February 1, 1999.

2000 — Southern China — Three Weeks in September

Attention, Chirita growers! Chiritas are becoming quite popular houseplants. Are they overtaking sinningias and streptocarpus? Do you want to learn more about chiritas? Join us for a three-week trip to tropical southern China, Guangxi Province, home of most of the chiritas. At least about 70 of the total known 130 species of *Chirita* grow in this province. We will make our headquarters in the capital city of Nanning. Our native guide will be Mrs. Ling Zeng. She is a native of Nanning and a university professor there, but is now residing in Sarasota, Florida. Mrs. Zeng is a published Chinese gesneriad expert, extremely knowledgeable about chiritas and knows the localities where they grow. Various rented bus trips will bring us to the plants, also other gesneriads such as *Aeschynanthus accuminatus, Rhynchoglossum obliquum* and *Chiritopsis glandulosa.* She has also offered to show us other botanical establishments in the area.

This GRF trip will give a boost to chirita cultivation anywhere. We expect participants from Japan and Sweden. Trip capacity is 15-20 persons, and the cost is tentatively $4,000. If you are interested in going, please sign up early, if possible by February 1, 1999, with a $100 deposit. We are giving you details of this trip now so you can save up funding for it.

2001 — Panama — Two Weeks in April

The Central American country of Panama is very rich in gesneriads, especially in *Columnea, Dalbergaria* and *Drymonia.* We will be going to the provinces of Chiriquí and Panamá. We will land in Panama City, fly from

there the total length of Panama to Davíd, Chiriquí, then rent a bus and explore, especially around the volcano Cerro Punta, and try to find the rose-colored *Columnea chiricana.* This supposedly extinct species (GRF logo plant) was recently re-discoverd near the type locality. A spectacular find! The whole area is just brimming with gesneriads. When we return to Panama City, we will have a day's excursion to another rich gesneriad area, the sub-cloud forest area of Cerro Jefe, my stomping grounds in 1970. Cost of the trip is $2,500 but a reservation deposit is not necessary until after the China trip.

If you are interesting in participating in any of these gesneriad study trips, please contact the GRF as soon as possible. Send your name, address, phone number, email address and deposit to the address above.

Sinningia magnifica growing in situ in Brazil
Photo by Alain Chautems

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Chapters and Affiliates Report

Jon Dixon <jond@hooked.net>
55 Tum Suden Way, Woodside, CA 94062

A new chapter of AGGS is in the process of forming in East Central Iowa in the region of Linn, Johnson, Jones, Cedar, Iowa, Benton, Black Hawk, Marshall and Buchanan counties. Any interested persons can contact John Adney on the Internet at <johnadney@email.msn.com> or by phone at 319-373-4820.

Once again it is time to remind chapters that AGGS Bylaws require the chapter positions of president, vice president, treasurer and secretary to be AGGS members. Since any officers whose memberships have lapsed will not be receiving this issue of THE GLOXINIAN in order to read this, I am requesting that chapter members remind their officers to make sure those memberships are renewed.

Application for Membership — *American Gloxinia and Gesneriad Society*

WELCOME – membership in our international society includes quarterly issues of THE GLOXINIAN – *The Journal for Gesneriad Growers,* a copy of *How to Know and Grow Gesneriads*, a packet of gesneriad seeds and a wealth of information about our AGGS Chapters, Flower Shows, Publications, Research, Slide Programs and Seed Fund. Membership begins upon receipt of dues.

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